WAS JACKSON'S DEATH A HOMICIDE? PG 36

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CSIS under fire in new report

KHADR CSIS, Canada's spy service, should have considered Omar Khadr's age and the widespread allegations of abuse before interrogating him in 2003, concludes an investigation by an Ottawa watchdog agency. The report is the latest indictment of Canada's treatment of the Toronto-born captive.

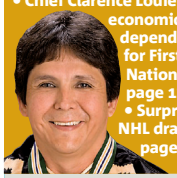
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

SEE CSIS, PAGE 6

FocusOn FirstNations

For the next week, Metro Canada will be focusing on First Nations and Aboriginal news, community issues, arts and culture as part of a special series leading up to the Assembly of First Nations convention, July 21-23, in Calgary.

- Today
- Chief Clarence Louie on economic independence for First Nations, page 12
- Surprise at NHL draft, page 16



Comment pg 12

Get up, stand up

T.O.CivicStrike

The latest news about the Toronto city workers' strike.

- Today
- More garbage dropoff locations, page 4
- Councillor petitions for meeting, page 4

SAUL PORTO/TOP NEWS

Sebastian McKenzie alleges he was attacked by a CUPE 416 striker when McKenzie, his pregnant wife and two-year-old son went to drop off garbage at the Scarborough Arena Gardens. More coverage, page 4.

Strikers trash car

Scarborough man alleges attack at garbage dump site

HANNAH ZITNER
for Metro Toronto

A Scarborough couple say they were physically attacked, verbally abused and had property vandalized by striking city workers while disposing their garbage at a waste site Tuesday.

"I was attacked, my car was destroyed, we were bullied by this organized mob and nobody did anything," said Sebastian McKenzie, 35, from Scarborough who works in the film industry.

McKenzie, his seven-month-pregnant wife and two-year-old son went to the Scarborough Arena Gardens to drop off their garbage when a CUPE 416 striker told McKenzie he had to stay put for 15 minutes — a standard wait time at some picket lines.

McKenzie said the altercation started when he tried to drive away and a worker who he believes is the strike captain lunged at his car "à la a soccer player taking a shot on goal" and then punched the car, causing dents and breaking the side mirror.

T.O.CivicStrike

A self-employed Scarborough woman who did not want her name published confirmed McKenzie's story and said she would act as a witness in court if need be.

"Sebastian did not provoke this. He just did not want to be held hostage. It was hot, he had a baby in the car, he had a pregnant wife."

CUPE local 416 communications representative Pat Daley said she was not aware of the incident and does not encourage such confrontations.

"It's perfectly legal protocol to ask people to wait. Anyone reading the news would know that there has been waits and we ask people to be patient."

Meanwhile, McKenzie said he received a call from the CUPE local 416 office apologizing for the incident.

Bug hits cottage country

Flu Outbreak

Influenza A (H1N1), also known as swine flu, has hit cottage country with outbreaks of the virus in up to seven summer camps, including one that was temporarily closed.

Hundreds of youngsters are being sent home with the H1N1 virus symptoms, or are spending their days in camp infirmaries, according to health officials.

Illness

- The health ministry has reported that the rate of influenza-like illness is "well above what is expected for this time of year," especially for patients under age 19.

All cases have been mild and no children have required hospitalization.

Many camps have been screening youngsters for the bug, even before they get on buses and head up north.

"We have three (overnight) camps that have H1N1 outbreaks," said Dr. Charles Gardner, medical officer of health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

At Queen's Park, Health Minister David Caplan said he is monitoring the situation closely.

"The details are a little sketchy (but) all the cases that they know about are mild," Caplan told the Toronto Star.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 3

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girls night in*

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Three teens charged after man dies in fire
A 22-year-old Toronto man has died, and three teens have been charged with arson after, police allege, the four of them set fire yesterday to six commercial units in Vaughan yesterday. Charged are Miguel Arias, 18, Joshua Miller, 19, both of Vaughan, and Adrian Flores-Valverde, 18, of Toronto. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Baby Kaylee's parents split

The parents of a baby girl once at the centre of a heart donation drama have announced their separation. Through a spokesman, Jason Wallace said yesterday he and Crystal Vitelli "separated due to discrepancies within the family." Wallace is scheduled to hold a press conference today to explain the decision and give an update on his four-month-old daughter's condition. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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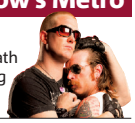
Tomorrow's Metro

Music
Eagles of Death Metal soaring in funk



metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Canada's spy agency watchdog blasts CSIS over Omar Khadr's prison interview at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Gene Simmons and Shannon Tweed create a stir on Parliament Hill at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 3, 5, 16, 26, 40 & 45 Bonus 31
Ontario 49: 10, 26, 30, 40, 42 & 46 Bonus 44
Ontario Pick 3: 6 7 4; **Ontario Pick 4:** 8 8 6 0
Encore: 6646306
Daily Keno: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 16, 20, 22, 26, 29, 31, 33, 39, 51, 60, 63, 64, 65, 67, 70
These results are not official.

News in brief

SHOOTING Residents heard more than 20 gunshots and watched as a car sped off leaving a wounded cyclist on Highland Hill, near Dufferin Street and Lawrence Avenue West, just after 5 p.m. yesterday. The victim was listed in serious but stable condition. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mudder, it's OK to go to camp

Recent outbreak up north has parents concerned, doctors say go

Flu **Outbreak**

Mississauga mother Natalie Rea is having some misgivings about about sending her 13-year-old daughter to summer camp this weekend.

"I don't know. I'm really debating whether I should or not," she said yesterday.

Rea got a phone call from a councillor at the Olympia Sports Camp in Huntsville yesterday who informed her a camper had tested positive for the H1N1 influenza virus and that other children had come down with respiratory infections.

"They said the camper is no longer there and that they cleaned the cabin and that they haven't had any more confirmed H1N1," Rea said.

But health officials are urging parents not to keep their children from summer camps, even though there have been some outbreaks of the virus and influenza-like illness at some.

"In general, this has been a mild infection as influenza goes, we are putting in place all these control measures to minimize impact, to minimize the likelihood of outbreaks … and there are a lot of benefits, of course, of going to camp," said Dr. Charles Gardner, medical officer of health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

The Ontario Ministry of Health has issued guidelines to camps on how to contend with the H1N1 virus. And Gardner said the health unit has issued a screening tool to all camps to help catch any cases. It's a list of questions about flu-like symptoms that are being asked of incoming campers.

Camps are also being extra vigilant in cleaning and making sure alcohol-based hand rub is available. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

What parents and campers need to know

- What can parents do? "If children are healthy, then they certainly can go to camp," says Diane Dingman, director of communicable disease control for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, which currently has no cases of H1N1 at summer camps. "But if it's time to go to camp and a child is not healthy, they should be staying home until they are well." Dingman says the recommended quarantine time is at least five days.
- What can campers do? The single most important thing to prevent the spread of H1N1 influenza is good hand hygiene. That means regularly washing hands with soap and water and using alcohol-based hand sanitizer, especially before eating and after touching the nose or mouth.

Galloway Boys found guilty

TRIAL A jury has returned guilty verdicts for three men charged in what's being called one of Canada's most extensive gang prosecutions.

Thirty-one-year-old Brenton Charlton was killed in a drive-by shooting in March 2004 — the innocent victim of a gang war in Toronto's east end.

Prosecutors successfully argued 26-year-old Tyshan Riley, 26-year-old Phillip Atkins and 23-year-old Jason Wisdom were all members of the Galloway Boys and that they shot up Charlton's SUV in the mistaken belief it belonged to the rival Malvern Crew.

The three men began banging on the prison box and shouting at the judge when the convictions came down and were ordered out of court. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TV **Meet Canada's newest top model**

MUCH MUSIC PHOTO

From Manitoba to Milan: Meaghan Waller has won the third season of Canada's Next Top Model." The 19-year-old Winnipeg native — a first-time model who had never participated in a photo shoot prior to joining the reality TV competition — was named the winner during the show's season finale on CTV Tuesday. She stopped by MuchMusic yesterday.

Reward offered for missing mom

CASE Where is Poonam Litt? That's the $25,000 question her husband and Peel police are asking more than five months after her disappearance from her Brampton home.

It's also the amount of the reward posted yesterday by Manjinder Litt for information about where his wife might be.

Litt told reporters his two-year-old daughter Kiranjot keeps "asking when my mom will come back."

Poonam Litt vanished Feb. 5, somewhere along the 20-minute walk to her job as a dental receptionist near Torbram Road and Bovaird Drive East.

Det. Kim Taylor said the woman walked out with only the clothes on her back and a cellphone, which Taylor said hasn't been used since. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Some numbers after Day 25 of city walkout
Since the civic workers' strike began 25 days ago, there have been 328 tickets issued for illegal dumping, 6,800 warnings issued for illegal dumping, and 615 unionized employees who have applied to the city to cross the picket line and return to work. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

T.O.CivicStrike

Three new dump sites to open

Trio of drop-offs close; no more added till late next week: City

With no deal in sight and garbage piling up in temporary dumps, the city is opening three new residential drop-off locations — a move that has upset more residents.

When fencing went up at noon yesterday around the outdoor rink at Campbell Park, near Lansdowne Avenue and Dupont Street, Andrew Hladkyj suspected his neighbourhood would become a new dumping ground.

"It's steps from a play structure and a park that is used for soccer every day. People are very upset," said Hladkyj, who lives across from the park. His six-year-old daughter, Leah, uses the playground daily.

Hladkyj says he's thinking of contacting Friends of Christie Pits, who held daily protests when that park was turned into a temporary dump. It closed July 5 when it reached capacity.

The other new dump sites, open daily from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., are in Scarborough parking lots — at L'Amoreaux Park, in the Birchmount-Finch area, and Clairlea Park Arena, near Warden and St. Clair.

Coun. Adrian Heaps, who represents the Clairlea area, said neighbours are upset. "Of course, people are not happy … I just ask them to understand," he said, adding the dump was reduced to a capacity of 16 to 18 days.

Three temporary dumps were closed last night: Earlscourt Park (at Lansdowne and Davenport), Ted Reeve Arena (at Main and Gerrard) and Wishing Well Park (Victoria Park and Highway 401).

With the three new sites, city manager Joe Pennachetti said no additional ones will be needed at least until later next week.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TOM BOGAERT/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

City managers at Wilket Creek Park help unload bags of rubbish from cars.

Petition circulating to call council meeting

ETOBICOKE Coun. Peter Milczyn (Ward 5, Etobicoke-Lakeshore) is circulating a petition among councillors to call a meeting of council to deal with urgent items such as contract approvals.

A majority of councillors — 23 signatures — is required to force a meeting. Milczyn said yesterday he's close to the quota.

While councillors are seeking a special council session, it would do little good because there are no staff to carry out council's wishes, said Coun. Joe Mihevc.

"You can approve all the stop signs you want, but there's no one there to actually create the stop sign and there's no crew to go out and actually install that sign."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

On hold

- Overhaul of Milliken water pumping station and reservoir.
- Bike-sharing program.
- $9-million program to give homeowners insulation grants.
- Cancellation of rental fees for Caribana's use of facilities.

City workers can bypass picket

DOOR While striking workers circle the main entrances above, there's a door in the bowels of Toronto City Hall that is key to getting inside.

It's at the end of a large city-owned underground parking lot, which means pickets can't go there.

For Mayor David Miller and left-wingers, crossing picket lines presents an ethical dilemma. This door settles the conflict. Other councillors simply avoid the building and work from home or satellite offices.

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Man charged after woman found malnourished and dehydrated
A 60-year-old woman is recovering from malnutrition and dehydration in hospital as her caretaker faces neglect charges. Andrew Jones, 55, of Toronto faces two charges of criminal negligence causing bodily harm and two charges of failing to provide the necessities of life. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Are evangelicals maligned by media?

As David Haskell pulled together visuals for his report on a Christian school's prayer garden, he suddenly found himself in a contentious position.

The controversial imagery in question? A chaplain saying a prayer.

"It was the fact he was saying 'Jesus' all the time," he recalled.

Haskell said he was told the story would be pulled unless the visuals were removed. There were concerns their inclusion "would make people uncomfortable."

The former TV reporter said this incident was emblematic of a number of others that had taken place over the years, and was part of what inspired him to investigate how the news media cover evangelical Christians.

In Through A Lens Darkly: How The News Media Perceive and Portray Evangelicals, Haskell examines news coverage as well as journalists' feelings and perceptions about evangelicals.

"What I endeavoured to do was to try and find the link," said Haskell, an associate professor of journalism and contemporary studies at the Brantford, campus of Wilfrid Laurier University.

"I was looking for the link between reporters' attitudes and their coverage, and then also I wanted to run it statistically to see if there was statistically significant difference between different answers based on different opinions."

The study found a mostly negative view of evangelicals by the media.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Peters cracks Top 10 earner list

COMEDIAN Russell Peters and Howie Mandel have seemingly been able to laugh off the global economic downturn.

The Canadian comics were among the Top 10 highest-earning comedians over the last year, according to Forbes magazine.

Mandel, who did double-duty as the host of Deal or No Deal and his own prank show, Howie Do It, pulled in $15 million US to sit sixth on the list. Peters, a Brampton native, made $10 million US in a year that saw him tour and release a second CD/DVD, Red, White and Brown.

Russel Peters

Jerry Seinfeld topped the list after earning $85 million US in the past year — mostly from syndication deals for Seinfeld.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Honey Jam **Performance**

LAURA BLENKINSOP/FOR METRO TORONTO

Jaclyn Cenycn, 12, performs at the Honey Jam launch at the Roots store at 100 Bloor St. W. yesterday. She is the youngest of a group of just under 30 female artists who will hit the stage at the Honey Jam showcase at the Mod Club on August 16.

Twin actors face child porn charges

CRIME Toronto police have laid child porn charges against twin brothers who have worked on children's television programs.

Police say that as a result of an online investigation that began in June 2006, they obtained a search warrant for a house where they seized a quantity of child pornography.

On May 28, Ronald Croft, 40, and Donald Croft, 40, both of Toronto, were each charged with possession of child pornography, accessing child pornography and possession of cannabis.

Police say the accused are identical twins, and have worked in the entertainment industry for several years, known as "Twin Brothers" and/or "Twin Actors."

They have worked on children's television shows and have had access to children through a piano school run by a family member.

Police believe the alleged victims in the child pornography have not all been identified.

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Canadians will need more help from CPP: Study
A new study says Canadians are living longer and will require several additional years of benefits from the Canadian Pension Plan, a federal retirement program funded by employees, employers and investments. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Date set for slain boxer's funeral

A funeral service will be held the morning of July 20 in Montreal for former boxing champion Arturo Gatti, left. Gatti's mother told The Canadian Press that his body is expected to be returned from Brazil tomorrow and the service will take place in a church in the city's Little Italy district. Gatti's wife Amanda Rodrigues is being held on accusations that she strangled him with her purse strap as he drunkenly slept. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Recession fuels angry strikers

LABOUR The worst economic slowdown since the Great Depression doesn't seem to have deterred workers from taking their grievances to the picket lines.

Indeed, the number of work days lost to strikes in the first three months of 2009 was almost double that of a year earlier, before the financial crisis hit and the national unemployment rate soared, according to data from Statistics Canada.

Labour experts say workers' anger about being asked to bear what they see as the brunt of the recession, as well as fear of losing hard-won benefits, are overcoming nervousness that striking could cause them to lose their jobs.

Alan Hall, director of labour studies at the University of Windsor, said many workers resent their employers for asking for major concessions from their employees while continuing to enjoy raises and benefits.

"(Workers) see the causes of the current recession and crisis as being clearly not of their making," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vancouver **Social housing**

CANADA MORTGAGE AND HOUSING CORP./THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trade Minister Stockwell Day, left, and Chief Ernest Campbell of the Musqueam First Nation take part in a ground-breaking ceremony in Vancouver yesterday for 31 new social housing units. Day announced a $5.3-million investment for the Musqueam First Nation as part of Canada's Economic Action Plan.

CSIS needs reform, says spy watchdog

Khadr case prompts call for advice from MP

Canada's spy watchdog says the Canadian Security Intelligence Service may need major changes after finding it ignored concerns about human rights and Omar Khadr's young age in deciding to interview the Toronto-born teen at a U.S. military prison.

The Security Intelligence Review Committee called yesterday for "guidance and advice" from Public Safety Minister Peter Van Loan to help the spy service meet legal and public demands in the post-9/11 world.

"The time may have come for CSIS to undertake a fundamental reassessment of how it conducts business, and to undergo a cultural shift in order to keep pace with the political, judicial and legal developments of recent years," the committee said in a report written on the Khadr case.

"The time may have come for CSIS to undertake a fundamental reassessment of how it conducts business."
Committee report

The twenty-two-year-old Khadr is being held by the Americans at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for allegedly throwing a grenade in Afghanistan when he was just 15, killing a U.S. soldier.

There was widespread media reporting on allegations of mistreatment and abuse of detainees in U.S. custody in Guantanamo and Afghanistan when CSIS put questions to Khadr in February 2003, the review committee report says.

"SIRC did not find any evidence that CSIS took this information into account in deciding to interview Khadr."

The committee also raised serious concerns about Khadr's age in the special report to Van Loan, responsible for CSIS.

"It is well recognized in Canadian and international law that youth are entitled to certain fundamental rights because of their status as a minor," the report says.

"SIRC found no evidence that CSIS took Khadr's age into consideration before deciding to interview him at Guantanamo Bay."

It has long been known that CSIS officers questioned Khadr at Guantanamo in 2003 and that they shared the results of their interrogations with the Americans. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Visa applicants swarm embassy

MEXICO About 100 Mexicans with travel plans to Canada camped outside the Canadian Embassy overnight Tuesday to get a first crack at submitting their visa applications, and local media reports said the numbers swelled to 1,000 by mid yesterday morning.

The Canadian government announced Monday that it was imposing visa restrictions for the first time on Mexican nationals, giving people 48 hours to get their papers in place.

The move was a response to a growing number of refugee claims made by Mexicans who show up on Canadian soil.

Worried Mexican travellers and politicians criticized the Canadian decision yesterday.

Mexico's Senate leader Gustavo Madero Munoz told the EFE news agency the visa requirement was a "terrible step backward."

He acknowledged the change was linked to the massive number of refugee claims launched by Mexicans — 9,400 last year — and said he would do everything possible to restore Canadian confidence in his people.

Would-be tourists complained of a lack of organization at the embassy.

"People who are giving information don't speak Spanish, and they treat us with disrespect," Orlando Medina told La Reforma newspaper.

Some told local reporters they had decided to cancel their trips. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Exemption

- Border officials warned earlier this year that Canada would have to be on guard for war criminals trying to get into the country, after the Conservative government ended visa requirements for Croatian citizens.

The government in March lifted the contentious visa requirement after heavy lobbying by the Croatian government and Croatian-Canadian community.

It is feeling similar pressure from Mexico and the Czech Republic for suddenly slapping visas on their citizens this week, in response to the large volume of refugee claims from those countries.

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News in brief

ISOTOPES Canada's nuclear medicine community is worried about layoffs if the current isotope shortage drags on. Two nuclear medicine groups say health-care providers sometimes find themselves idle because they don't have enough isotopes to do diagnostic scans. But hospitals still have to pay staff to be there all week because they don't always know what their shipments will look like. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mayerthorpe victim still awaits reburial in RCMP cemetery
The remains of shot Alberta Mountie Leo Johnston exhumed amid a family dispute have yet to be reburied in the RCMP national cemetery. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hard knocks school

University students say they're victims of violence

Almost one in five university students visiting their school's health clinics reported being victims of violence in the past six months, a new study shows.

The rate surprises Elizabeth Saewyc, a professor at the University of British Columbia's school of nursing, and the head researcher of the study.

Saewyc was more surprised that gender didn't make a difference — 16 per cent of women and 17 per cent of men reported either emotional or physical violence in the past six months.

Researchers set out to explore gender differences in violence experienced at the University of Washington, University of Wisconsin and UBC.

The results at campuses in Canada and the U.S. were consistent. Almost 15 per cent of women and 9 per cent of men who entered the clinics reported emotional violence.

But when it came to physical violence, the numbers were reversed. Only 3 per cent of women reported physical violence in the past six months and 9 per cent of men.

Emotional violence was narrowly defined as repeated ridicule, threatening statements, destroying belongings and unreasonable jealousy.

Importantly, Saewyc said most students reported the violence had occurred when alcohol was involved. One in three women and nearly two-thirds of men reported they had been drinking when a violent act occurred. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Campuses

- Sexual assaults reported in 2007 at York University in Toronto and Carleton University in Ottawa brought attention to the issue of violence on university campuses.

Halifax **Arrrr, tall ships on the horizon**

RYAN TARLIN / METRO HALIFAX

Leanne Strathdee, event director for the Tall Ships Nova Scotia Festival 2009, is 'captured' by some seafaring friends on the Halifax waterfront yesterday. The ships began arriving yesterday morning, a day before the five-day event officially kicks off.

First Nations kids in the spotlight

FocusOn FirstNations

POVERTY New Brunswick is gearing up to investigate First Nations child welfare.

The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child and UNICEF have stated Canada is faring poorly.

"When we look at stats relating to child poverty, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, addictions, criminality, we're finding the numbers are six to 10 times what they are for the non-native community in New Brunswick," said Bernard Richard, the province's child and youth advocate.

"The problems are well known, but I think we need to find better solutions, because what we have right now is not working."

Former Indian affairs minister Andy Scott and provincial court Judge Graydon Nicholas will co-chair the New Brunswick committee.

Scott and Nicholas will lead a committee comprised of native elders and specialists in social work, said Richard.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pathologists seek test safeguards

HEALTH Pathologists are seeking the standardization of the kind of tissue testing that was at the centre of the Newfoundland's breast cancer testing scandal.

The Canadian Association of Pathologists has introduced measures it says improve cancer care for patients.

Those measures include the establishment of a national standard for immuno testing and benchmarks for a safe workload.

At least 386 patients in Newfoundland and Labrador were given inaccurate results on their breast cancer tests.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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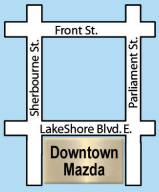

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Pentagon won't ban war zone smoking

The U.S. Defence Department says it will not ban smoking by American troops in war zones despite a recent study recommending a tobacco-free military. The Pentagon says troops already are making enough sacrifices from fighting two wars and doesn't want to do add to that stress by taking away one of the few outlets they have to relieve it. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Australians look to solve penguin deaths

Australian officials are investigating the bloody deaths of nine wild penguins in the Sydney area. The investigation so far has yielded some clues. Officials can almost certainly rule out humans; bite marks and blood patterns point to foxes, which often hold prey in their mouths and prance around shaking it, said Sally Barnes, head of the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service. As they hunt for the killer, parks service officials have set fox bait and traps, and warned residents to keep dogs locked up or on a leash. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

RUSSIA A well-known Russian rights activist was found slain execution-style yesterday, hours after being kidnapped in Chechnya — the latest in a series of brazen murders targeting critics of the Kremlin's violent policies in the war-torn North Caucasus. The murder of Natalya Estemirova follows the killings in recent years of reporters, lawyers and activists, and appeared to indicate that Russia remains a place where political murders are committed with impunity.

MEXICO Twelve people tortured and killed in the drug cartel-plagued Mexican state of Michoacan were federal agents, the government said late Tuesday, marking one of the boldest attacks on federal forces since President Felipe Calderon launched his war on drugs. The bodies of the 11 men and one woman were found piled up along a mountain highway Monday near the town of La Huacana.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'If you're not sure, kill'

Israeli soldiers allege excessive force used in Gaza War

Israeli soldiers who fought in last winter's Gaza War say the military used Palestinians as human shields, improperly fired incendiary white phosphorous shells over civilian areas and used overwhelming firepower that caused needless deaths and destruction, according to a report released yesterday.

The testimonies were by far the strongest allegations to come from veterans that the army used excessive force during the three-week offensive and echoed claims already levelled by Palestinian and human rights groups. The military rebutted the report, saying the accounts were anonymous and impossible to verify.

The accounts of 26 war veterans were collected by Breaking the Silence, an organization of Israeli army reservists critical of their country's treatment of Palestinians. One said the army needlessly used white phosphorous, a masking agent that can cause severe burns, for smokescreens. Others said regulations for opening fire were vague.

"There were no clear red lines," one soldier told the group.

"If you're not sure, kill. Fire power was insane," said another.

Military officers have acknowledged that rules of engagement were relaxed to minimize army casualties but insisted civilians were never targeted.

Israel launched the offensive last December after thousands of rocket attacks by Palestinian militants on southern Israel over an eight-year period. More than 1,400 Palestinians, including at least 900 civilians, were killed in the fighting, thousands of homes were destroyed and Gaza's infrastructure was battered, according to human rights groups.

Israel puts the death toll closer to 1,100 and says most were armed fighters. Thirteen Israelis were killed, including three civilians who died from rocket fire.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

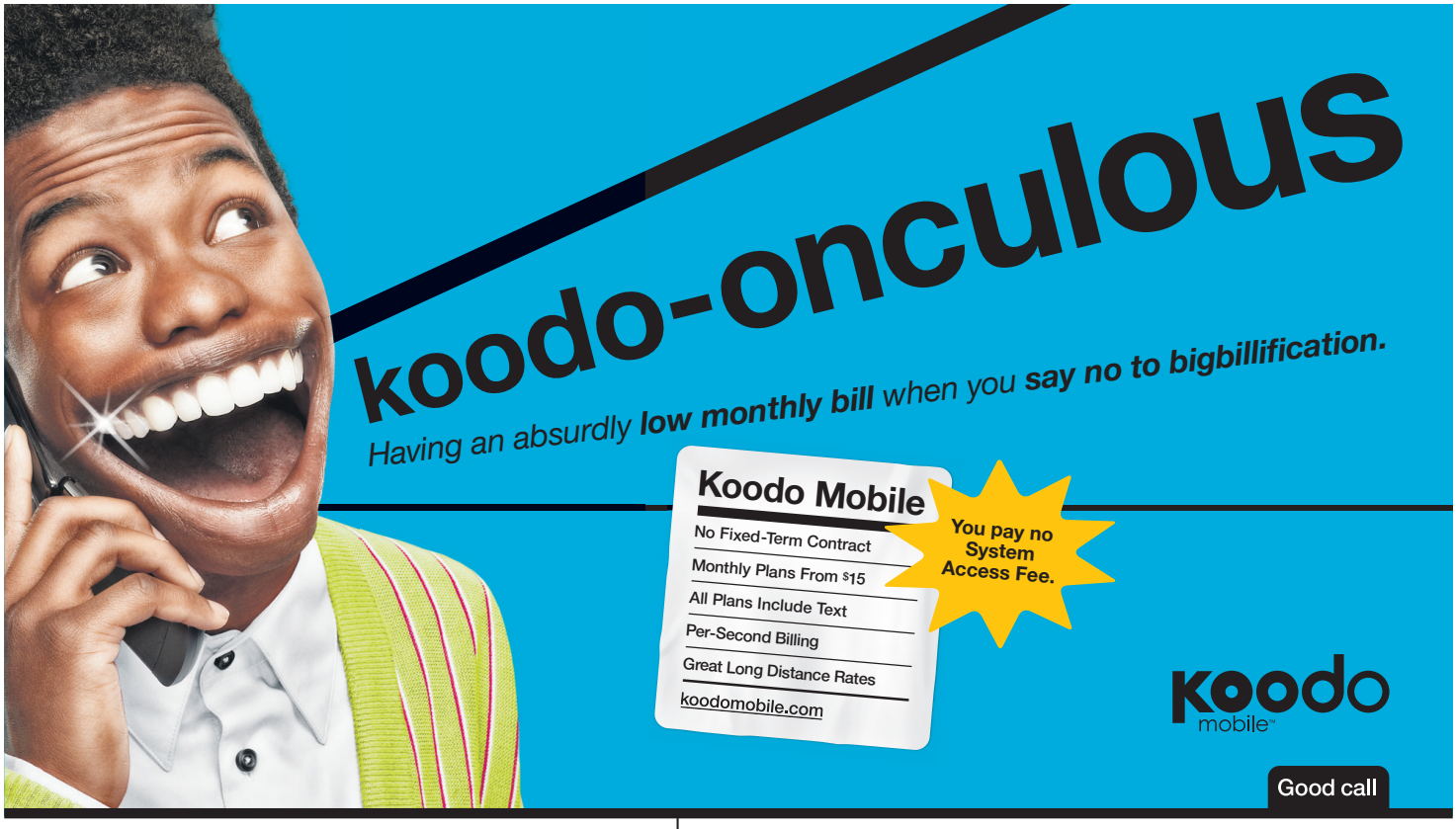
Ammo explosion

- The UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon said ammunition which had exploded in a southern village Tuesday was a "serious violation" of the ceasefire that ended a monthlong war between Hezbollah militants and Israel three years ago.

Iran 168 dead in plane crash

SINA SHIRBLTHE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A rescuer attends to the scene of a plane crash in Jannatabad, Iran, yesterday. The Caspian Airlines jet carrying 168 people nose-dived into a field 15 minutes after takeoff from Tehran in a fiery crash that shredded the aircraft, killing everyone aboard. Witnesses say the tail was on fire before the crash.



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Frozen invaders make their mark in the solar system
A new astronomy theory says the solar system's main asteroid belt is contaminated with icy invaders from far away. The invaders are asteroids that seem more like primitive frozen comets than the baked rocks that make up the majority of asteroids between Mars and Jupiter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oldest woman lied to give birth

But fertility clinic doc says menopausal women are not unfit for pregnancy

A woman believed to be the oldest ever to give birth lied about her age to a fertility clinic, it was revealed yesterday — the day her death was reported.

But the doctor who performed her fertility procedure said it doesn't mean menopausal women are unfit for pregnancy,

"It's not unusual these days to treat women in their early 50s," said Dr. Vicken Sahakian of the Pacific Fertility Clinic in Los Angeles.

"I will defend that decision. I have no problem with it."

Maria del Carmen Bousada has died at 69, leaving behind two-year-old twins, say reports — citing a tumour.

> **"Men have kids at that age all the time and they're praised as being virile and macho."**
> Dr. Vicken Sahakian

Bousada had been in menopause for 18 years when she received in vitro fertilization at the clinic, claiming to be 55 instead of 66.

She gave birth in December 2006 after using a false birth date on documents.

Sahakian said he has successfully treated dozens of women over the age of 50 in the past five to 10 years.

It's easy for women to lie to their doctors, he said.

"We don't ask for passports, obviously."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Bousada file

- She gave birth to twin sons in Spain, a week before here 67th birthday.
- Her family was unaware she'd gone to the U.S. to undergo fertility treatment.
- Bousada said: "My mom lived to be 101 and there's no reason I couldn't do the same."

SOURCE: WIKIPEDIA

Child bride cites pastor's sex sked

MATRIMONY A woman who says she was a child bride of evangelist Tony Alamo has told jurors the minister had so many partners he had to schedule when he would have sex with them.

The woman, now 30, said she was an Alamo follower into adulthood — until the Arkansas-based pastor took an eight-year-old as his latest bride.

At one point, the woman said, Alamo told her graphically how he fondled the girl — and she raised her concerns.

"He told me to shut up and that I shouldn't question what 'the Lord told me to do,'" the woman said.

Prosecutors accuse Alamo, 74, of transporting five girls across state lines for sex between 1994 and 2005.

In court, the woman said she was married to Alamo at age 15. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Payette roars off for her space date

SHUTTLE Delay-plagued space shuttle Endeavour finally thundered into the heavens yesterday, carrying Canada's Julie Payette to the international space station for a historic rendezvous with a fellow Canadian astronaut.

After five launch attempts were scrubbed, the shuttle roared off its pad at Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Payette will meet up at the space station tomorrow with fellow Canadian astronaut Robert Thirsk.

> **"It's an immense privilege and it's quite awesome."**
> Julie Payette

It will be the first time Canada has had two astronauts in space at the same time.

The 16-day mission is Payette's second in space.

Thirsk is spending six months at the space station.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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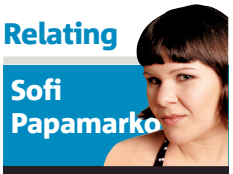
Comment

It's all in the approach

Relating



Sofi Papamarko

metronews.ca/papamarko

A man walks into a bar. He spots a seated brunette that he'd very much like to get to know. He approaches, says something witty, offers to buy her a drink. Looking bored, she declines. She's waiting for some friends. Thanks for the offer, though.

"Shot down!" he thinks. "Women in this city are so cold."

It's been long believed that women are pickier than men when selecting sexual partners. This makes perfect sense from a biological standpoint; women have more at stake. When it comes to reproduction, females invest nine months, plus 18 or so years of child rearing. Men invest approximately nine minutes. That women are more discerning than men about their choice of mate seems logical. But a new study published in Psychological Science puts this idea through the wringer.

In their study on romantic selectivity, Eli J. Finkel and Paul Eastwick put a fascinating spin on the activity of speed dating. Generally, women are seated during speed-dating events while men rotate around the room, a trend that likely stems from the social construct that men typically initiate approach. Finkel and Eastwick experimented by also having the women rotate while the men remain seated. At the end of the sessions, they had the participants indicate their levels of interest in the people they "dated." The results were surprising. No matter the gender, the Rotaters demonstrated a higher interest in the people they approached than the Sitters demonstrated in the people who approached them.

On the web

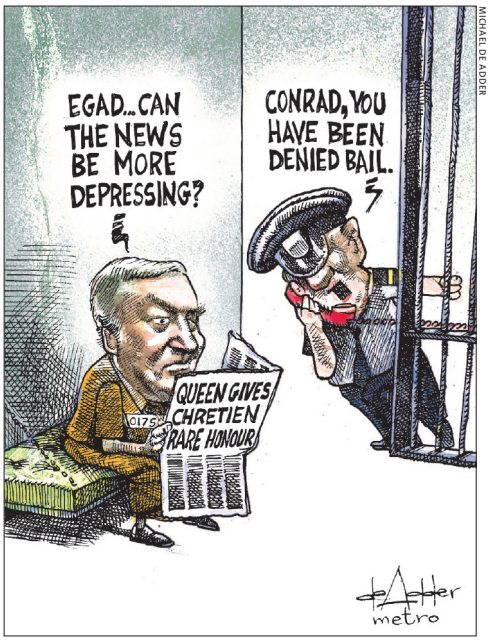
- For more views on relating, go to Love Bytes at metronews.ca/blogs

Wait, what?

"It's true that we approach people when we're interested in them," Finkel told Metro via email. "A more subtle effect is that the mere act of approaching people makes us interested in them. Our bodies influence our mind in mysterious ways, and one of them is this effect of physically approaching on romantic attraction … perhaps women tend to be choosier than men because they (women) are much less likely to engage in physical pursuit — for example, by approaching a man in a bar." Approaching someone increases adrenaline, confidence and triggers a host of other physiological and psychological reactions the person being approached does not share.

Don't let this study deter you from chatting up the dreamy dreamboat of your dreams, however. As The Great One once said: "You miss 100 per cent of the shots you don't take." But maybe the next time you're interested in someone, you can beckon them over, seated comfortably at your table all the while.

Sofi Papamarko is a 20-something writer based in Toronto. Her heroes include Desmond Morris and Nancy Sinatra.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

First Nations and economic independence

Chief Clarence Louie

FocusOn FirstNations

The importance of economic independence for First Nations starts with a basic proposition: Individual band members must be provided an opportunity to provide for their families through self generated income, not be forever dependent on underfunded federal grant programs.

What good will it be if a First Nation receives wealth from oil and gas money, casino money or government transfer payments, or a one-time multimillion-dollar land claim settlement if a majority of their people remain on welfare?

A band does not owe its membership dependency on welfare programs but rather it owes them an opportunity to become economically independent through employment and business development.

The success of a First Nation community within the Canadian economic framework cannot be attained until there are equal chances for First Nations to be educated and provided with an opportunity to put their training to work. Nothing rips a nation state apart more and causes dependency than an unemployed population. The idleness of unemployment is a major sickness in most First Nation communities.

The enemy to First Nations truly participating in the Canadian economy is the perpetuation of the attitude that the First Nation problem can be solved through social expenditures. The current 100-year-old failed government formula of 96 per cent social spending versus four per cent for business investment has left most First Nations with an unemployment rate that far exceeds the Great Depression.

An employment economy creates a healthier population than handouts. As one past national chief said, "A healthy person is a working person." Many native youth are being slowly destroyed by the absence of real employment opportunities. Offering youth a welfare cheque leads to a sense of hopelessness and a lazy attitude.

When an individual gains economic independence, just as when a First Nation gains economic independence, then good health in a holistic lifestyle becomes possible.

The Assembly of First Nations is one of many venues in which we must present a united front to Canadians and the Canadian government to organize economic opportunities for First Nations. The AFN's role should not be to "complain" about our situation, but to "proclaim" our intention to develop our resources, seek out joint ventures and strengthen our economy so we can manage our own future and reclaim our inherent right as First Nations to fully participate in the economic development of our traditional territories.

I have said it many times, "There is no dignity in a welfare line" and the very best social program is a decent self-supporting job.

We ask business leaders and entrepreneurs, corporate Canada and their bankers to work with us to ensure that a decade from now self generated income for First Nations in Canada has outpaced the welfare dollars sadly provided to First Nations.

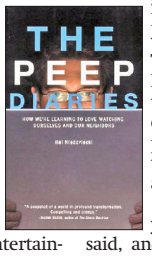
Chief Clarence Louie heads B.C.'s Osoyoos Indian Band, where he initiated development of nine businesses on band lands.

Worth mentioning

Digital age has created show-all phenomenon

"Dear Diary ..." That phrase is, well, just so dated.

And it's certainly far too private, at a time when people are eager to post their innermost thoughts on blogs and social networking sites like Facebook, for all to read.



Toronto writer and social commentator Hal Niedzviecki calls it "peep culture," and says it allows ordinary people to get their entertainment from other ordinary people.

In his book, The Peep Diaries, he says it's a tell-all, show-all phenomenon of the digital age, which also has social consequences, such as diminishing the overall concern about privacy.

One big problem is the tendency of "oversharing," or giving out too much personal information both online and offline.

It was recognized by Webster's New World Dictionary as 2008's word of the year. That's also the year, Niedzviecki says, that formally ushered in the era of peep culture, even though it has been around for decades.

"Overshare gets you eyeballs," he said, and many who do it may not even realize they are revealing too much. "The speed at which you can put out information, there is no take back."

His ideas haven't gone unnoticed. Talk show queen Oprah has recommended The Peep Diaries for her summer reading list.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Metro Online Poll Results

93% SAID YES	Should Toronto residents be able to pick up street garbage? *Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca*	7% SAID NO

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Toronto airport security workers get three-year deal

Garda World Security Corp. said yesterday it has reached a three-year labour agreement with the union representing 1,400 screening officers at Pearson International Airport. Garda provides cash logistics, physical security and global risk consulting services around the world. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

BMO wants bigger slice of card market

CREDIT Bank of Montreal is revamping its credit card portfolio, eliminating some cards while boosting rewards and discounts on others as it tries to snag a bigger slice of the growing card market.

BMO, a MasterCard issuer, aims to poach market share from American Express in the competitive "no-fee" card category and from Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in the cutthroat travel card segment.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Others

- Canadian Tire lowered spending limits for inactive holders.
- TD Bank cracked down on late payers.
- Amex Bank raised rates on some American Express cards.

Car rebate panned

Ontario is hoping rebates of up to $10,000 will push people into buying electric cars.

The plan will give buyers of plug-in hybrids and battery electric cars rebates between $4,000 and $10,000 for vehicles purchased after July 1, 2010. The government wants one out of every 20 cars in Ontario to be electric by 2020.

Incentives include special licence plates that allow drivers to use car pool lanes even with one person in the car, access to public charging facilities and parking at government and GO Transit stations.

The plan was quickly criticized as another investment in General Motors.

"By bribing consumers to buy electric the government is indirectly diverting resources from potentially more promising technologies," industry analyst Dennis DesRosiers said.

DesRosiers took issue with the government's argument that Ontario may get more assembly jobs.

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Premier Dalton McGuinty and Transportation Minister Jim Bradley announce the rebate yesterday. Inset: Chevy Volt

General Motors said yesterday its Chevy Volt will initially be built in Detroit.

Stephen Beatty, Toyota Canada's managing director, said he would have preferred to wait for the results of market tests to determine the viability of plug-in hybrids. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Machinists OK contract with Air Canada in second vote

DEAL Air Canada said it has achieved labour stability after its largest union joined four others in approving new 21-month contracts.

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, which represents about 11,000 mechanics and baggage handlers, announced yesterday that 60 per cent of its members voted in favour of the deal, after initially rejecting the contract by 50.8 per cent.

Contract approvals by mechanics, pilots, flight attendants, customer agents and dispatchers have been considered a critical factor in keeping the airline out of bankruptcy court.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

MEDIA Gannett Co., the largest U.S. newspaper publisher, topped expectations for its second-quarter earnings as it reversed a loss from a year ago, even though advertising revenue continues to dive. The Virginia-based company, which publishes USA Today and other daily newspapers, reported a profit of $70.5 million US.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Vancouver	Travel Aug 17 - Aug 27/wg	$199 + taxes & fees $214
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Holiday Inn Sunspree Marina Cove + taxes & fees $253
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, car rental and 7 nights 3-star accom in St Petersburg. Departs Jul 30/nol/c6.

Orlando Family Special $229*
Best Western Lakeside + taxes & fees $253
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, car rental and 7 nights 3.5-star accom located minutes from *Walt Disney World* Resort. Departs Aug 18/nol/c6.

Las Vegas 4 Nights $315
Circus Circus + taxes & fees $241
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 4 nights 3-star accom on the Las Vegas Strip. Departs Sep 20/swg/wg.

Puerto Plata 4-Star $537
Grand Paradise Playa Dorada + taxes & fees $321
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom. Departs Jul 23/nol/ts.

Varadero 7 Nights $585
Mercure Playa de Oro + taxes & fees $210
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 7 nights 4-star all-inclusive accom. Departs Aug 20/swg/wg.

Europe Holidays

DUBLIN LABOUR DAY WEEKEND
$799
Jurys Inn Christchurch + taxes & fees $243
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 4 nights 3-star central accom with breakfast daily steps away from Temple Bar and Dublin Castle. Travel Sep 3 - 8/acv/ac.

London Starter Package $389
Royal National + taxes & fees $387
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and the first 2 nights 3-star central accom with breakfast. Travel Sep 12 - 18/ggv/ts. BONUS Essential London tour included.

Paris Starter Package $595
Citadines Paris Place d'Italie + taxes & fees $342
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and first 2 nights 3-star central accom. Travel Aug 17 - 24/vat/ts.

Munich 6 Nights $893
Hotel Ludwig + taxes & fees $305
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare, transfers and 6 nights 3-star central accom. Departs Aug 6/acv/ac.

Canada Holiday

Niagara Falls Winery Tour $299
Fallsview Plaza taxes & fees included
INCLUDES 2 nights 3-star accom one block from Niagara Falls and deluxe Niagara Region wine tour. Departs Fridays Sept 11 - Oct 18/ggv.

Cruise Holidays

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CRUISE & STAY
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Norwegian Pearl + taxes & fees $266
INCLUDES airfare to Vancouver, 5-day NCL cruise from Vancouver to LA visiting Astoria and San Francisco, airfare to Las Vegas, 3 nights 4-star accom at Luxor and return airfare to Toronto. Port charges included. Travel Sep 21 - 29/ggv/ac.

Canada & New England $675
Norwegian Spirit + taxes & fees $115
INCLUDES 7-day Norwegian cruise, onboard meals & entertainment. Sail from Boston to Quebec City and visit Bar Harbor, Saint John (Bay of Fundy), Halifax, Sydney and La Baie. Port charges included. Sails Oct 9.

Hawaiian Islands $785
Pride of America + taxes & fees $76
INCLUDES 7-day Norwegian cruise, onboard meals & entertainment. Sail roundtrip from Honolulu and visit Maui, Hilo, Kona and Kauai. Port charges included. Sails Dec 12.

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TICO

Sun Media makes senior appointment
Sun Media Corporation, a division of Quebecor Inc., has named Kin-Man Lee as chief financial officer. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Manufacturing drop worse than expected

The great recession is still going strong, at least in Canada's battered manufacturing sector.

With many industries starting to show signs of life, Canada's manufacturing sector — particularly autos — appears stuck in reverse with sales falling a whopping six per cent in May to the lowest level in more than a decade.

Statistics Canada reported yesterday that plant shutdowns in the motor vehicle and primary metal industries, along with continued volatility in the aerospace sector, accounted for most of the decline.

Although auto production is certain to bounce back when the July numbers are revealed due to the return to production of Chrysler plants — which were shut down for most of May and June — economists are concerned about the general weakness of the manufacturing industry.

"Manufacturing looks like it might be one of the last sectors to come out of the recession," said Benjamin Reitzes, an economist with BMO Capital Markets.

"There's weakness across the board. We're not going to see big gains until U.S. demand picks up and, with U.S. consumers saving more money than before, that's less spent on goods and a lot of those came from Canada."

Scotiabank economists Derek Holt and Karen Cordes noted that the outsized fall will have the impact of pulling down gross domestic product for the second quarter, but with Chrysler getting back to work at the end of June, it will also mean a higher bounce for the third quarter that began in July.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario's GDP down 2 per cent

- Ontario's economy shrunk in the first quarter, dragged down in part by lower business investment and a continued drop in manufacturing.
- New figures released by the province show its gross domestic product declined by two per cent in the period, following a 1.5 per cent decline in the fourth quarter.
- The government says the contraction reflects the global economic downturn and a decline in exports.
- There was also a decline in business investment — a problem Ontario hopes to address in part by merging sales taxes to create a more favourable investment climate.
- During the same time period, Canada's overall GDP fell 1.4 per cent, the same as the U.S. economy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pfizer, province pitch in $6.9M for cancer drugs

HEALTH The fight against colon cancer got an infusion of funds today.

In a $6.9-million collaboration, the Ontario government and leading medical research centres in the province joined the world's largest pharmaceutical research company to develop new drugs.

Pfizer, a New York-based company with 1,400 employees across Canada, is partnering with the Ontario Cancer Institute and the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research.

Dr. Tom Hudson, president and scientific director of the Institute for Cancer Research, says the deal supports intense study of colon cancer cells and could lead to treatments for people with a poor chance of recovery.

Every person has a unique response to particular drugs, Hudson says. Scientists want to match treatments to patients more precisely.

Pfizer is investing $6 million, while the Ontario government is putting $900,000 toward the project in a move it hopes will create research jobs and stimulate Ontario's economy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Government plan

- The government investment is part of the Next Generation of Jobs Fund, a five-year plan to support research and innovation in three areas including climate change, digital media and disease.

Corus faces 'worst case scenario' in radio

MEDIA Corus Entertainment Inc. says its radio stations are facing a worst case scenario as the weak economy continues to rip into its advertising revenues, causing the value of its radio assets to decline.

Chief executive John Cassaday delivered a relatively pessimistic outlook to analysts yesterday after reporting a net loss of $145 million for the third quarter. "During our last call we were asked about our worst case scenario for radio this year, and we said it could be as bad as eight per cent (revenue decline)," he said.

"It appears that this prediction is proving, sadly, to be correct."

The Toronto-based broadcaster's net loss compared to earnings of $37.7 million in the year-earlier period. The loss in the most recent quarter ended May 31 amounted to $1.81 per share compared to a profit of 45 cents per share last year.

Corus attributed much of the loss to a $175-million impairment charge related to goodwill and the value of broadcast licences in its radio business.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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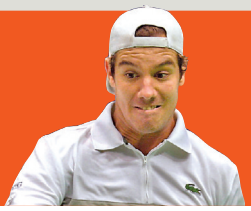
Islanders ink Tavares
John Tavares signed a three-year entry level contract with the New York Islanders, who took the 19-year-old standout first overall in last month's NHL draft. The Islanders announced the signing in a statement yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



Cocaine ban avoided

Richard Gasquet, left, escaped a lengthy doping ban yesterday when the International Tennis Federation ruled that he inadvertently took cocaine. The 23-year-old Frenchman, who was cleared to resume playing after completing a 2½-month ban, convinced an independent anti-doping tribunal that he ingested cocaine by kissing a woman he met at a nightclub in Miami. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Leafs to host Habs in opener

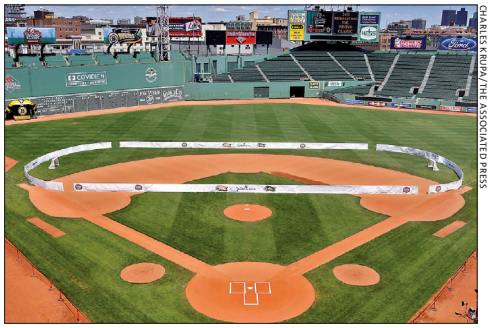
NHL schedules released: Montreal bookends Toronto's season; Fenway hosts Classic

Perhaps there's no better way to start the NHL season than with a good old Original 6 rivalry. Probably no better way to end one, either.

So, for Toronto-Montreal aficionados — and new Leaf defenceman Mike Komisarek might want to take note — you can mark down Thursday, Oct. 1, and Saturday, April 10, on your calendars.

The Maple Leaf season begins with Montreal at the Air Canada Centre on Oct. 1, and ends with Toronto at the Bell Centre on April 10.

The Leafs have sold about 17,000 tickets, meaning about 1,000 or so tickets are available for each of the team's 42 home games, said spokesman Pat Park.



CHARLES KRUPA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An outline of the boards of a hockey rink are mounted on the field yesterday at Fenway Park in Boston. The historic ballpark will play host to the NHL's 2010 Winter Classic.

Whether GM Brian Burke's newly tenacious and pugnacious team shows any improvement, or makes the playoffs, will be told on what takes place in between.

> **"A unique event deserves a unique venue ... the Green Monster providing the backdrop."**
> Gary Bettman

The Leafs will get their first look at John Tavares on Nov. 23 when the New York Islanders come to town.

They can see a few familiar faces Dec. 7 when Nik Antropov, Pavel Kubina and the Atlanta Thrashers visit, and Feb. 12, when they head to St. Louis to face the Blues, featuring Carlo Colaiacovo and Alex Steen.

The NHL released its schedule yesterday, with the centrepiece being the Jan. 1 Winter Classic in Boston's fabled Fenway Park. The Philadelphia Flyers will be in town for that.

"A unique event deserves a unique venue, and we are delighted the Bruins and Flyers will renew their rivalry with the Green Monster providing the backdrop," NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said promoting the event.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No break for Hill, Halladay as Jays get back to work

BASEBALL The last thing Aaron Hill wants to do is take part in a planned workout the Toronto Blue Jays are holding today.

With just one day off so far this season, and having just played seven innings in his first career all-star game, the second baseman wouldn't mind an extra day off to recharge his batteries. But with American League teammate Roy Halladay planning to rejoin the rest of the Blue Jays at the Rogers Centre, well, there's really no excuse for him not to do the same.

> **"He needs the day off more than I do."**
> Roy Halladay talking about Aaron Hill

"I know," Hill said after the American League's 4-3 win over the National League. "Doc's going, I gotta go. I mean, I gotta go! I'll go work out and hang out with the guys."

Told of Hill's feigned indignation, Halladay laughed and said, "He needs the day off more than I do."

Either way, with the AL East-leading Boston Red Sox arriving in Toronto for a three-game series that starts Friday, it's back to reality after a memorable trip to St. Louis for both of them.

"I wouldn't mind not having an all-star break for the rest of my career," Hill said. "This was a lot of fun."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

BASEBALL Pedro Martinez is returning to the major leagues. Martinez agreed to a contract with the Philadelphia Phillies, general manager Ruben Amaro Jr. said yesterday. The team put the three-time Cy Young winner on the 15-day disabled list with a mild shoulder strain. It has not been determined when he will begin a rehab assignment.

WORLD CUP Construction workers have agreed to end a week-long strike that threatened to derail the completion of already tightly scheduled projects for the World Cup, union officials and employers said yesterday.

NFL Ravens linebacker Terrell Suggs agreed to terms yesterday on a six-year contract, a deal that provides a long-term solution to his unsettled status as the team's franchise player. Suggs has been the Ravens' franchise player for the past two seasons.

FOOTBALL Brett Favre said yesterday he's not yet ready to commit to the Minnesota Vikings because he wants to make sure he can be effective for an entire season. The 39-year-old says he will give the Vikings an answer on whether he'll play this season by July 30.

SOCCER UEFA reduced Didier Drogba's Champions League ban yesterday to three matches from four after his foul-mouthed rant at the referee after Chelsea's semifinal elimination in May.

ADVERTISING The Indianapolis Colts are adding a sponsor logo to their practice jerseys. The team said yesterday it has finalized an agreement with Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tour de France Sprint to the line

LAURENT REBOURS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stage winner Mark Cavendish of Britain, centre left, American Tyler Farrar, centre, second place, Oscar Freire of Spain, second from right, fourth place, and Yauheny Hutarovich of Belarus, right and third place, strain over the last metres of the 11th stage of the Tour de France yesterday. Italian Rinaldo Nocentini retains the yellow jersey as overall leader, while teammates Alberto Contador and Lance Armstrong remain in second and third, respectively.

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Mosley won't reoffer for FIA job

Scandal-plagued Max Mosley will not stand again as FIA president and will back Frenchman Jean Todt to succeed him after 16 years in charge of world motorsport. Mosley said yesterday he received "almost 100 messages from FIA member clubs urging me to think again," but he felt it was time move on. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sinclair goes for 100 again

SOCCER Star striker Christine Sinclair will get another shot at a milestone 100th goal when Canada takes on the top-ranked U.S. in a two-game women's soccer series starting Sunday in Rochester, N.Y. The second leg is next Wednesday in Charleston, S.C.

American Abby Wambach also comes into the series with 99 career goals.

Sinclair has 99 goals in 130 appearances. She hit No. 99 two games ago in a 3-1 loss to England at the Cyprus Cup in March, but was kept off the scoresheet in a 4-0 loss to the Americans on March 25 in Toronto.

The 26-year-old from Burnaby, B.C., leads a 24-woman roster chosen by coach Carolina Morace. Canada is currently ranked 11th in the world.

The FC Gold Pride sniper is joined on the Canadian squad by five other WPS players: Goalkeepers Erin McLeod (Washington Freedom) and Karina LeBlanc (Los Angeles Sol), defender Candace Chapman (Boston Breakers), midfielder Kelly Parker (Sky Blue FC) and forward Melissa Tancredi (St. Louis Athletica).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Big thing for the community'

Unranked First Nations enforcer unexpectedly drafted by Devils

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Ashton Bernard wasn't ranked for June's NHL draft and didn't even bother to follow it on the Internet.

In fact, he was sitting with a friend in a restaurant in Charlottetown, eating a cheeseburger for lunch — oblivious to the fact the New Jersey Devils had just picked him 174th overall — when his cellphone rang. It was his agent.

"I knew the draft was going on and when I saw him calling, I said, 'No, this can't be happening,'" said Bernard, who hails from the First Nations community of Eskasoni, N.S.

"He said, 'Ashton, congratulations!' I said, 'What did I do?' He said, 'You've been drafted in the sixth round to New Jersey.' I had to hang up and call my parents right away."

He was too excited to finish the burger.

Bernard, who plays in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League, is a good-news story for the small community of about 4,000. It has struggled recently with suicides and drug overdoses among youth, including four suicides in five months earlier this year that prompted the reserve to declare a crisis.

The 19-year-old was the second hockey player from Eskasoni to be drafted. He is proud to follow in the footsteps of his role model, Atlanta Thrashers draftee Chad Denny, and hopes he can inspire First Nations youth to do the same.

FocusOn FirstNations

"It's a big thing for the community, especially for the kids growing up playing hockey," Bernard said. "It could really open some doors for them. Growing up there is hard, you know? It's only a good thing for this to happen to me."

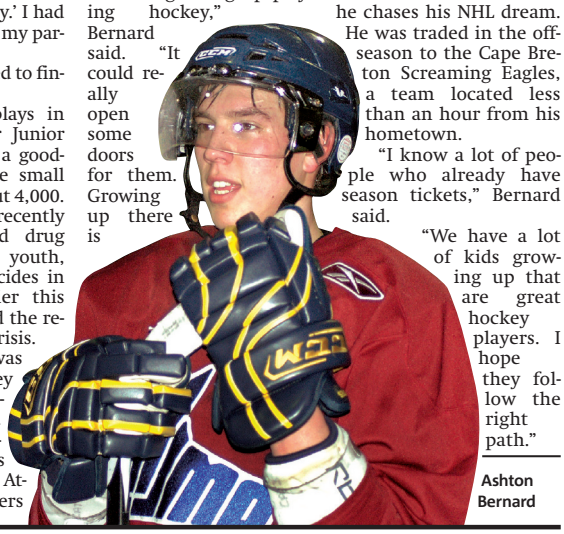
The six-foot-four, 203-pound Bernard is a self-described "enforcer" who relishes playing a rugged game.

Kids in his community will get a first-hand look at Bernard this season as he chases his NHL dream. He was traded in the off-season to the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles, a team located less than an hour from his hometown.

"I know a lot of people who already have season tickets," Bernard said.

"We have a lot of kids growing up that are great hockey players. I hope they follow the right path."

Ashton Bernard



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Saturday, July 18th @ 1:07 pm JR. JAYS SATURDAYS — Presented by The Toronto Star. Join us for the FREE Outdoor Program two hours before game time at Gates 5 & 10. After the game, kids under 14 get to run the bases just like the pros!

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Chairsource's take on noir
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Metro Homes

A source for chairs

Featuring some of the most exciting and eclectic collections of furniture available, the new line from Chairsource, near Toronto, offers even more cutting edge selection, such as this item from their Modern Noir line. See chairsource.ca for more.

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

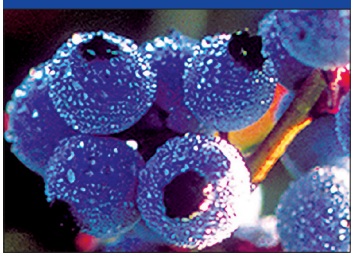
Naturally bronzita

Pg 28

Learn more about the ornamental quality of the cosmopolitan sedge plant. Great for your garden, you'll never go back to plain old grass.

Style At Home

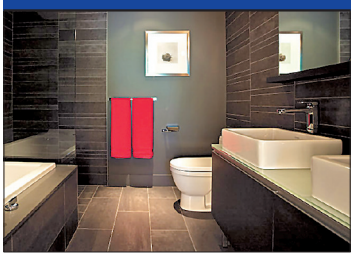
Pg 18



When it comes to blueberries, go wild!

Suite Talk

Pg 20



Nature and the city meet in this week's Suite Talk.

YourSpace

Pg 22/23

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Bountiful blueberries

BY SIGNE LANGFORD

Nova Scotia is the second largest producer of wild blueberries in the world (Maine in the U.S. is number one), and throughout late August and September, when the berries are ripening, harvesters celebrate — Down East style. After long hours of hand-raking, crouched over patches of low-bush berries, it's time for a party!

At the Nova Scotia Wild Blueberry Harvest Festival (wildblueberryfest.com), folks enjoy all things blue, at events ranging from pancake breakfasts to a pie-eating contest.

So what's all the celebrating about? Well, as the First Nations peoples knew, this incredible fruit has a lot to offer. They enjoyed both fresh and dried berries and also used them medicinally, to treat coughs and as a relaxant during childbirth. Sometimes they even crushed them to create a dye. Blueberries helped see native and settler alike through tough winters. In 1615, Samuel de Champlain sampled a Native American pudding of blueberries, cornmeal and honey called sautauthig, and during the American Civil War, Yankee troops were supplied with canned wild blueberries.

Not all blueberries are created equal. The wild version is smaller, sweeter and more flavourful than its cultivated cousin, and also has almost twice as much antioxidant capacity — the ability to protect cells from damage. And with every study, there's more good news. Early evidence suggests blueberries are a powerful anti-inflammatory, and beneficial for heart, brain and urinary tract health.

For many East Coast families, managing and harvesting wild blueberry patches has been a treasured — albeit back-breaking — way of life for generations. Today, only the east coasts of Canada and the U.S. have the perfect terrain and climate to produce them; these regions process and export millions of pounds worldwide.

Jennie Dobbs, owner of Morris East restaurant in Halifax, has an intimate connection to wild blues. Her partner's family runs a third-generation patch in Colchester County, and this summer, her restaurant will be serving wild low-bush blueberries from the farm during the height of the season.

"Low-bush berries have the greatest flavour, and picking them at the juiciest moment is critical for taking customers back to days spent at U-picks," says Jennie. "Nova Scotians grow up picking berries, so they know the flavour of truly ripe ones — a taste unparalleled by the ones sold in most grocery stores."

Although fresh wild blues are only available for a precious few weeks in late summer, frozen and dried are available all year. Now, that's something we can all celebrate!

did you know?
During blueberry season, bears will eat nothing but. Biologists have tracked bears that have trekked more than 20 km a day on an empty stomach to sniff out a berry patch.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WILD BLUEBERRY ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

An entertaining multitasker

Keeping a bag or tub of these versatile little berries in your freezer at all times will mean you'll never be at a loss for ideas, inspiration or a nutritious snack.

• For an elegant side dish, whip up a quick compote of wild blueberries, maple syrup and port to serve with pork, duck or game meats. To make a beautifully simple dessert, simmer blueberries with maple syrup or honey, then drizzle the warm mixture over the best-quality vanilla ice cream you can find. Behind the bar, dazzle guests with a frozen blueberry daiquiri.

• Blueberries are the star of any brunch, from a blueberry yogurt smoothie to fresh muffins served piping hot from the oven to an easy homemade preserve. For an everyday healthy treat, toss a handful into your morning oatmeal or cereal.

• Wild blueberries are the natural choice for baking. Their skin is thicker than that of their cultivated counterpart, so they hold their shape in quick breads or cakes and won't turn the batter blue. Added bonus: More skin equals more good-for-you fibre!

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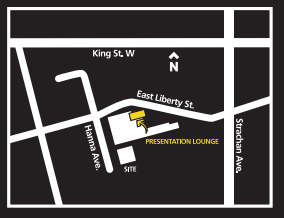

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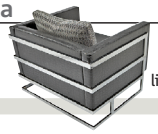


Lobby Couture
Chairsource offers items such as this sleek chair in its Lobby Couture line of home furnishings. See chairsource.ca for more. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Nature and a natural look

Suite Talk

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

For big city buyers feeling metropolitan malaise, Parc Lofts offers the opportunity to get back to nature, without leaving the city.

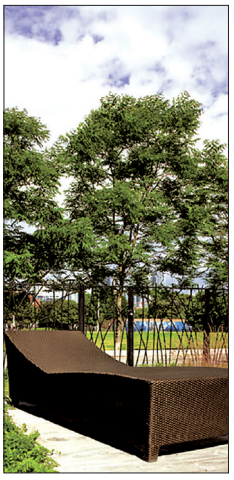
The new 10-storey development at King and Stafford Streets in Toronto borders Stanley Park, offering residents greenery at their front door, which Brad J. Lamb, president and CEO of Parc Lofts developer Lamb Development Corp. said is reflected inside.

"We want to provide a sense of the green that's crawling up the side of the building, so in the building, we offer natural woods in kitchens and bathrooms," he said.

Walnuts, cherries and oaks fill the suites at Parc Lofts, from kitchen cabinetry, through floors, to the dining room table. But to ensure the woods look contemporary, Lamb said a rift-cut is used in the kitchen to emphasize colour instead of grain, topped off with a unique stone countertop.

"Many developers give you melamine or laminate counters, or they might give you granite or marble. We're giving stone and they're twice as thick as anywhere else in the city," said Lamb. "We're giving really big, chunky, clean-cut, modern counters to give the kitchen a sense of strength and weight."

To match the modern touches in the kitchen, Lamb said the bathroom has been outfit with oversized Italian porcelain tiling and a darker sensibility. "We wanted to give a very dark, city, small hotel feel that you'd see in a beautiful hotel in an urban environment."



Seen here are some shots from the Parc Lofts model suite on King and Stafford Streets, right beside Stanley Park.

We're giving stone and they're twice as thick as anywhere else in the city."
Brad Lamb on Parc Lofts' countertops

But instead of the sardine tin size typical of downtown lodging, Parc Lofts has been designed with a very open feel, said Lamb, accentuated by near-10 foot-high ceilings and floor-to-ceiling windows.

"Real estate is expensive in the city and square footage is a luxury," said Lamb. "Apartments can feel a lot larger and friendly for entertaining when you have open or moving spaces that allow you to slide a wall, open up a space and create more room."

Suites at Parc Lofts range from 500 to 2,300 square feet. Prices start at $204,900 and reach $1,557,900. For more information, visit parclofts.ca or call 416-622-4441.

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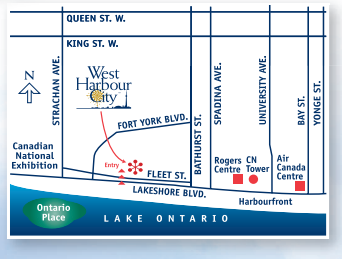

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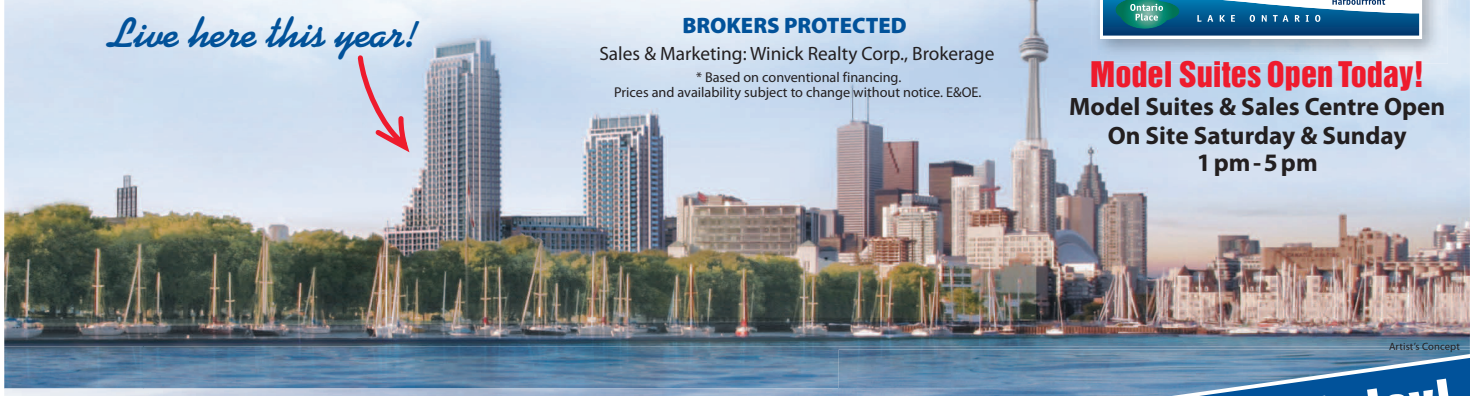

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KingWestLife.com

Lobby Couture
It's not just chairs at Chairsource, check out this full-length sofa from their Lobby Couture line. See Chairsource.ca for more. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lighting the way with found

Your Space

Resident: Erin Green, 27, PhD Student
Space: Two-bedroom apartment in three-floor walkup
Location: International Market, Eglinton Ave. and Allen Rd.
Price: $1,075/month (plus utilities)

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

If you walk into Erin Green's apartment, you just might find something of your own.

"Almost everything you see in this room I got at a Salvation Army, by the side of the road or it was given to me," said Green, 27. She tries to complete one project each day and estimates 90 per cent of the items in her space are found objects, re-imagined and restored, with a collective price tag less than $500.

"I just love garbage," she said, beaming. "It's so fun because when you're done with it, you can just put it by the side of the road again."

One roadside attraction for Green was the dark blue upholstered armchair in her living room. "I saw it on the side of the road when I was walking home with my dad and just kind of saw the halo of light around it, like 'Ahh, the Mecca of garbage finding!'" she said.

ALL PHOTOS: BRIAN COULTON/FOR METRO CANADA

Here are some of Erin Green secondhand items in her International Market apartment. Follow the finds of Erin Green on her blog at moneycantbuytaste.blogspot.com.

Green's father is also her roommate and she said her motivation to recreate largely stems from being raised by humble parents who would frequent day-long auction sales. "Garbage is the family hobby. It's totally in our blood," she said. "Junk is in the veins."

And from her family comes the inspiration behind the cobbler's bench that acts as a coffee table in Green's main room. "This is probably the most sentimental piece in the apartment," she said.

Green recalls having the same style of bench, made by her late grandfather, in her Bathurst, N.B., childhood home.

CONT. ON NEXT PAGE>>

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Simple accessories can make or break the college dor

As soon as the residence assignments are sent out, some college students are eager to feather their new dorm nest. But don't go overboard.

Leave the blender, grill or popcorn maker at home, advises Laura Jeanne Hammond, publisher and editor-in-chief of Next Step magazine, which is aimed at high school students planning life after graduation.

"How many fresh-fruit smoothies will you really be making in your dorm room?" she asks.

She also nixes the coffee maker. "Going out for coffee is a great way to make friends; drinking it alone in your dorm room is not."

Next Step's suggested gift list for new freshmen includes fun items like a cheat sheet on clothes washing, stick-up touch lights and even a small plant or aquarium.

PB TEEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shown here is a Daily Dot Calendar — magnetic disks attach to the walls with D rings and can be written on with dry erase markers, $69.

Some experts suggest holding off on purchases till you've spent a few days at school. In that case, friends and family might consider giving gift cards to stores in the college area.

Many colleges also have checklists of recommended items on their residence websites. Make sure you know what the school won't let you bring; it varies widely. And get in touch with upperclassmen to glean insider tips.

An informal survey of some recent freshmen offers these tips on what's truly worth taking:

Many students say some version of a tool kit is essential: A couple of screwdrivers, a small hammer, duct tape, hex wrenches, rechargeable batteries, flashlight, pliers, picture-hanging items. There's often something that needs fixing after the parents leave.

Unless a loft-style bed awaits, bed-frame raisers get a nod; they provide added storage space.

With the likelihood that roommates will bring the same stuff, a permanent marker helps identify personal items. A large magnetized dry erase board is necessary for schedules and leaving messages.

CONT. ON NEXT PAGE>>

Taylor Steel
Check out the decal on the back of these chairs from the Taylor Steel line at Chairsource. Se Chairsource.ca for more. METRO NEWS SERVICES

l furniture

Think your home has character?

• Think your place is chalk full of character? Email douglas.dunlop@metronews.ca why and you could be featured on Metro's Your Space feature. Not all submissions will be considered.

ALL PHOTOS: BRIAN COULTON/FOR METRO CANADA

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After she commented on a similar piece in a former professor's office, she was taken aback when he emailed her six years later, offering her the item. "I almost had a heart attack because, for me, this is just so nostalgic."

In Green's kitchen, a vast antique column acts as nostalgia of the 1920s. Taken from the porch of an old craftsman's house, she found it at a swank architectural salvage store where purchases are usually in the thousands. "It was beat up, nasty and a little rotten and it said $10. I'm like, 'Perfect!' It's the only thing in the store I could afford, and I love it."

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rm room: Students

<<CONT. FROM LAST PAGE

Some like collapsible clothes hampers. Many suggested packing a big duffel bag with stuff, then using it to store dirty laundry.

DVDs and something to play them on appeared on most lists as a great way to break the social ice. Noise-cancelling headphones keep welcome sound in and unwelcome sound out.

Fans, for both cool comfort and sleep-inducing white noise.

Depending on where your campus is, a folding camp chair is useful for outdoor concerts or trips to the beach.

David Ladetto, a recent University of Massachusetts at Amherst grad, put a shower curtain at the top of his list. "It was one of the most useful items I brought with me," he explained. "It's an easy room divider, closet cover and privacy protector. I have to apologize to my mother for this one, because she was right. I ended up using a shower curtain for so many things in my entire four years."

Some kind of basic filing system ranked high: You'll be keeping track of a lot of forms and important papers on your own now, and even a simple paper accordion file will do the trick.

Several rising sophomores bemoaned the general lack of dorm cleanliness. While you might not be able to get your roomie on the same hygiene page, you can stock up on mild air freshener (check on allergies first, or opt for a chemical-free air cleaner), some paper towels and an all-purpose cleaner.

Pack some toilet paper if you want something softer than what colleges typically provide.

And for stepping into residence showers, flip-flops were a nearly unanimous choice.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PB TEEN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This product image released by PB Teen shows a dorm trunk. The trunk has a steel exterior and plywood base with crush resistant corners, which makes it a handy table as well. Its enamel is finished in black, pink, navy or white and priced at $199.

ALL PET FURNITURE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This product image released by All Pet Furniture shows the beta Cube, which can used as an aquarium or a small plant terrarium and is priced at $24.99.

Bring outdoors into the house

HomeScape

The "cottage" look is a good way to bring the summertime outisde into you homescape.

Summertime is finally, gloriously, upon us, so now is the time to luxuriate in its lazy, casual vibe.

Whether you only have a little free time or are lucky to have more, enjoy our ever-so-fleeting summertime. Walk around barefoot, put on your skimpiest clothing, barbecue to your heart's content, and dine or linger outdoors.

To maximize your enjoyment of the season, you'll want to blur the line between outdoors and indoors. You'll want to push normal "inside" activities outdoors with things like the traditional screened porch, and dining on the patio. But you'll also want to bring that luscious summery light indoors.

For me, summer with its relaxed emphasis on enjoying the season, and the lack of any sense of formality and fussiness, is a state of mind to be envied and sought after. One way to try to create that air of relaxation and easy living inside is to create an atmosphere that emphasizes comfort and informality inside the house.

Some people call bringing this feeling into the home the "cottage" look, but you can certainly create this look and feel, and keep it as a year-round style of decor, with a few accent changes to relate to the time of year. With cottage style, there's a lot of latitude.

Cottage style can take any number of themes, but whichever theme you opt for, there are some basics. The "cottage" look is above all, airy and light, casual and easy. It means you are bringing the relaxed feel of the summertime inside, and keeping it there throughout the year. It involves light colours, airy spaces that allow light and air to flow, and fabric finishes usually in toile, chintz, floral or plain fabric. Slipcovers work well, rather than anything dark or leathery. Furniture is usually not brand-new and shiny, but often looks weathered or is often painted over in light colours. Floors are usually natural wood, with rugs or stenciled accents.

The look is often thought to be a mix of "country" and "rustic," but can be other things too. In any case, anything formal or fussy is definitely out.

At its heart, cottage style relates to how you enjoy your summer, and where you live or spend your summers. For some of us, it is the sea or a large lake, with its blues and moody greys that best represents summer. Finds from the shore, such as shells and driftwood, lobster trap pieces, and polished stones or glass can look wonderful as accents. As the seasons change, you may substitute more seasonal accents, but the colours and themes remain.

For many of us across the country, summertime means heading up north to a rustic cottage beside a quiet misty lake, complete with canoe paddles mounted in an X-pattern over the fireplace. Cheesy as it may sound, this look works well in cottage country. But it can work in an urban space amazingly well — set aside the cheese factor, but stick with the rough-hewn wood and twig accents, and use earth tones.

For others, summer means gardening, and to bring the garden look indoors, you simply bring inside items that fit into that theme. For example, bring inside bright white or natural wicker furniture, or an antique watering can. Use floral throw pillows, and consider painting some parts of your decor in the light pink and green. This works well if your cottage is away from a lake, or sits amidst a meadow. It can also work well in an urban or suburban setting.

Other themes that bring the outside inside might be a "Malibu" beachhouse or surfing theme, complete with bright colours and modern finishes. A vintage theme can be a fine idea too. Really, anywhere your imagination takes you is fine. Just concentrate on the pleasures of summertime as you experience them, and you'll come up with a unique way to invite the summer into your home to stay.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

Taylor Steel
Tables aren't off the ... table at Charisource. Check this one out, from their Taylor Steel line. See chairsource.ca for more. METRO NEWS SERVICES

It's not always about money

Buying a **Home**

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

Metro reporter Robyn Young will be taking readers on a whirlwind tour of the trials and tribulations of buying her first home. Check back every week for her accounts.

Finally, I have a home.

When we last left off, I had purchased and backed out of a new loft property in a matter of a week.

In the midst of the fiasco that included discovering the building was not yet approved for residential use by the city, I came across a lovely, one-bedroom condo resale in the heart of Yonge and Eglinton.

The unit may not have had original, 17-foot wood slat ceilings, stainless steel countertops or glass tile backsplashes, but it did have a parking space, a locker, 24-hour security and a short commute to work. In the end, my conservative side won out.

By the time I came across it I had looked at so many different kinds many of homes — semis in Leslieville, towns in King West and lofts near High Park — and this one just seemed to fit.

Another bonus: It didn't fly off the market in a matter of hours like some of the others.

I actually had the chance to view the unit twice before deciding to make an offer and by that time it had been listed for about three days.

Taking our time because we knew there were no other offers on the table, my agent and I went through the paperwork one Friday afternoon and decided to offer a little under the asking price of $299,900; most recent one bedroom sales in the building had gone for around $285,000 so we decided to offer $285,000.

No sooner had we registered an offer than three additional offers came in.

"This means we'll have to go up to the asking price," my agent told me. I was prepared to go to asking, but no more, I said, and she agreed. The deadline for the vendor to make a decision was 10 p.m. that night and around supper time, my agent informed me a fourth offer had been added to the mix.

"This means you probably won't get it," she said apologetically.

"But someone else is going to get it for over asking and I don't think it's worth it; I don't want you to be in that situation."

I agreed and carried on with my evening, assuming the unit was lost.

By 10 p.m. I hadn't heard back and figured it was all over and some lucky person with money to burn had my cosy new condo.

But the next morning, I was awoken from my lazy Saturday sleep in by a phone call and a message from my agent asking to call her back as soon as possible. "It looks like things have turned in our favour!" she said excitedly in the message. When I called her back I found out that although we didn't have the highest offer, the seller liked our earlier closing date the best.

"It turned out another reason I got the condo was because I had met the owner twice and she liked me the best. Simple as that."

She later filled me in that she'd spent the evening haggling back and forth with the selling agent; it turned out they were very eager to give me the unit but wanted us to hike the price a bit to compete with the other offers. "I told him our offer was firm and the condo wasn't worth any more than that," she relayed.

Indeed, just when I thought all hope was lost in this money-hungry world of Toronto real estate with bidding wars on simple one-bedroom condos and homes selling for well over the asking price, a little ray of light came shining through: It turned out another reason I got the condo was because I had met the owner twice and she liked me the best. Simple as that.

Check back next week for the flurry of paperwork that comes with closing.

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Condo Expert, Frank Roselli of Urbanation, will offer an expert insider's view about the real estate market today and if and why you should consider buying a condominium. Laurie Santelli of the Bank of Montreal will be there to answer questions about the financing options for condominium purchasers, the questions to ask and the information that a bank will need to grant you a mortgage.

It's all about buying a condominium and a great opportunity to take advantage of the information these experts can offer.

Drop in and bring your condominium questions with you.

DATE: Saturday, July 18, 2009 | TIME 1:00 p.m. – 3 p.m.
PLACE: Gramercy Park Presentation Centre | Wilson Avenue west of Bathurst

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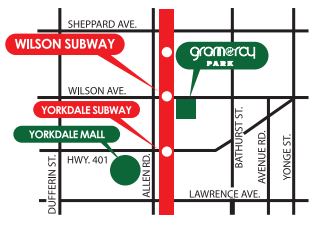

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Move swiftly on the hunt, but smartly too

If you've been keeping a keen ear to the real estate market over the past few weeks you've certainly heard by now that June 2009 was the best June on record, ever. No, that's not a typo, or a trick phrase. June '09 went into the Toronto Real Estate Board's books as the most active June on record, with a total of 10,955 transactions taking place — up 27 per cent from June of 2008. If you've been looking for a home in any of the GTA's more popular areas I'm sure this is not a surprise to you, as you may have lost out on a home or two that had its price skyrocket due to multiple offers. If you are looking to purchase this summer, hopefully the tips below will help.

Take it from me, even when times weren't as peachy as they are reaching towards once again, the really good properties vanish almost instantly. You must move fast. If you're focused, aware of your needs, finances, and have notes on the properties you've seen, moving quickly can be moving intelligently, rather than blindly. The purpose of establishing your needs, having a breakdown of various mortgage potentials, taking notes, and seeing numerous properties, is to enable you to act fast when a gem presents itself. It's easy to see how moving quick can be nerve-wracking. After all, buying a condo/home is often the single largest investment a person/family makes. You must understand that with the real estate market in the GTA being what it is, a person would have to be desperate or crazy — or ill informed — to sell for less than market value! That's why it's important to put yourself in a position to react fast to a "hot property," from a position of informed factual intelligence, and taking the right steps towards becoming a clever and astute buyer will do that for you. It is those amongst the very few who understand that moving fast can also mean moving wisely, that become the beneficiaries of the best properties in the GTA.

Often the most complex issue for buyers is how much they can afford. Many times I've shown buyers a breakdown of various mortgage situations, to their pleasant surprise! Fact is, many buyers can actually afford more than they think, given the proper strategy. Assume Buyer Katelyn is ready to buy a condo priced at $250,000. Chances are she'd consider a condo-town at $300,000 way out of her price range. With the right mortgage product, her monthly mortgage payment would only be about $200 more, not the $50,000 increase, on the surface. Katelyn should also consider her maintenance fees at the condo-town will be less and appreciation will probably be higher. Add all these figures together and the condo-town might actually be the financially sounder option. Of course this is just one scenario, but it pays to know all of your scenarios.

The key lies in the confidence of being a prepared and knowledgeable buyer, so that you're in a position to jump on a deal when it comes — very few are. In this market everyone's looking for the best deal and only the ones that are properly prepared will get it.

For assistance with your real estate questions feel free to email Amit at amitp@rogers.com.

Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max. amitp@rogers.com

It pays off to be in a situation when looking for a home to be able to quickly pounce on a property you want, so make sure you have everything in order beforehand.

Strike affects condo closing

LegalMatters

Jeffrey D. Cowan

jeff@cowanlaw.ca

Q I am supposed to close a condominium purchase in short order and there are problems with the unit. There is no flooring and doors on bathrooms etc. It is my understanding that as long as there is a toilet, running water and a lock on the front door that the unit is considered livable. My bank is looking for a City occupancy permit (which some cities no longer provide) before they give me my mortgage funds to close. I am at a loss for what to do and want to move in because I have been camping on friend's couches for the last couple of months while I wait for the unit to be ready.

A Your problem is quite common in today's City of Toronto strike. The city inspectors are on strike and there is no movement with respect to their arrival at building sites to finally approve construction. Banks are extremely reluctant to forward what is often several hundreds of thousands of dollars in mortgage funds when they don't have inspectors sign off by the city.

One financial institution has approached this problem rather pragmatically and has agreed to accept an engineer's report stating that the building complies with the building code. This is a compromise that is palatable to my senses as a lawyer and someone who needs to close housing transactions regardless of the inspection by a city inspector. One warning is that if after the city strike has concluded, that the inspectors will come on site and sign off on the structure, or if there are deficiencies, that they need to be immediately addressed. The end result is that banks want to make sure that their collateral is secure.

Amazing how a simple city strike can affect so many facets of day-to-day life: Not just garbage pickup.

Jeffrey Cowan is the principal with Cowan Taylor and McGee, Barristers & Solicitors. The information in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

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Canadian Gardening Magazine
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Outside Decor

Canadian Gardening

Sedges on a small-scale

These grasslike plants add texture and colour to any garden or container

By Stephen Westcott-Gratton

Without doubt, my favourite new plants last year were the patches of "annual" bronze hair sedge I had scattered about. Unexpectedly, many overwintered in my Zone 5a garden, happily returning for another season.

Although there are about 2,000 species of sedge (Carex spp.) worldwide, relatively few are used in Canadian gardens — and that needs to change! Tending to originate in damp environs in cool, temperate regions, these cosmopolitans are, I find, far more ornamental than most of the true grasses, set apart as they are by their colourful foliage in varying shades of yellow, orange, brown, blue and green — often with bold variegation.

Some species also have attractive flowers (such as the mahogany-red spikes of our native plantain-leaved sedge), while certain cultivars, Evergold for example, brighten up dark, dry corners more quickly and effectively than either ferns or hostas.

It's difficult to generalize about sedges, other than they're rarely troubled by insects or disease. Many prefer moist, shady conditions; others long for a place in the sun with well-drained soil. Some species form large clumps, while others spread by runners.

For the whole story pick up Canadian Gardening on newsstands now.

Care checklist

- Before planting, amend the soil with organic matter such as compost or well-composted manure.
- Evergreen or semi-evergreen types only need occasional trimming to tidy up winter-desiccated foliage.
- Divide sedges in early spring or late fall when they are semi-dormant.

MILLETTE PHOTOMEDIA

ALEKSANDRA SZYWALA PHOTO

MILLETTE PHOTOMEDIA

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Top left, plantain-leaved sedge; bottom left, Evergold Japanese sedge; centre, Bronzita Bronze hair sedge; right, Bronco bronze hair sedge.

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Some tips for simple home organization

A MESS? Do you often spend hours looking for things? Have you ever discovered a box full of items that you haven't looked at, or needed, in years? Do you avoid certain remote corners of your home or garage because you just can't deal with the mess? Are you moving in the next few weeks and want to avoid moving carloads of stuff you don't need? If you answered yes to any of these questions, don't stress out, the steps below will help you reach junk-free nirvana.

The first step is the most difficult and time-consuming — sort through the mess. Go through your junk drawers, garage and storerooms — everywhere your clutter accumulates — and gather all your odds and ends in one place. Then start the (heartbreaking) sorting phase by asking yourself what you really need to keep and what can be given away, recycled or thrown out and separate it into three categories: a) stuff you certainly don't need anymore; b) stuff you absolutely need to keep and store; and c) useful stuff that you forgot you had and that you can start using again.

Now that you know what items you want to keep, store them in suitable containers that you've clearly marked with a label. This is where a good electronic labeller comes in. Electronic label makers date back more than 20 years to when Brother introduced their popular P-touch brand. Today, they can be purchased in most office supply stores, or online at websites like brother.ca.

"Our P-touch labellers are ideal for on-the-go needs, so users just type, print, peel, and stick long-lasting laminated labels in seconds," says Brian Caldwell, Senior Product Manager at Brother Canada. "They are a quick, convenient and easy-to-use solution to get organized. Brother's durable patented tapes are available in various colours and sizes, up to 36 mm, and you can use colour coding to organize multiple storage boxes. Plus they are tested to the extreme, so they can move from freezer to microwave to dishwasher; without ever peeling or fading."

However you do it, creating a system that works for you will make it that much easier to stick to.

NEWS CANADA

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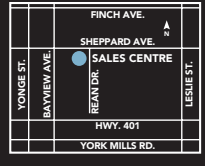

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Miami Collection
Fine weaving and a clean white look are part of Chairsource's Miami Collection, as seen with this love seat See chairsource.ca for more. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Update garage with a new door, floor

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Your garage is an integral part of your home, so why shouldn't you renovate it to look just as good and be just as practical?

With the new Home Renovation Tax Credit available across Canada this year and offering up to $1,350 back from the government for renovations up to $10,000, the time is right for a renovation of what is likely the largest storage and work space on your property.

If you're going for improved looks in the garage, Bruce Hutchinson, a sales consultant at Rona Home & Garden in Ottawa, says the best place to start is the door because it provides instant visual appeal.

"Probably the most visible thing to do is to replace the garage door — it's what your neighbours will see," Hutchinson said.

Steel doors are most popular these days because they usually have an enamel finish that lasts long and looks great, Hutchinson says.

He recommends you spring for an insulated door if you want to keep your garage cosy and consider replacing your clanging chain garage door opener with a quiet one that uses a belt instead. Wood doors are less popular because they warp easily and tend to require frequent repainting.

Frank Turco, trend and design manager with Home Depot Canada, says a quality floor can also be a simple, impactful way to keep your garage looking clean and well-kept and protect the concrete footing from spills and cracks.

"Probably the most visible thing to do is to replace the garage door — it's what your neighbours will see,"
Rona Home & Garden's Bruce Hutchinson

"The floor can make a quick impression on you because it's such a large surface," Turco said.

Popular options include thin, lightweight rubberized flooring mats or roll-on stone pavement for a visual effect that looks like real stone.

Whatever renovations you do in your garage, don't be afraid to experiment.

"The garage is a good place to practise your renovation skills because it's not perfect — it's a garage after all," Hutchinson says.

HOMEDEPOT PHOTO

A quality floor can be a simple way to update your garage.

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Budget shortfall
Only 29 per cent of women say they budget or estimate how much a weekday dinner will cost, and a staggering 10 per cent of women flat out refuse to eat leftovers, according to a new poll from ShopSmart magazine, from the publisher of Consumer Reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

Mike's Hard Pink Lemonade has partnered with Canadian Breast Cancer Network (CBCN), to raise funds in support of its important work. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cheers!
Twenty-five per cent of the profit from the sales of Mike's Hard Pink Lemonade will go to the CBCN.

EDITOR: NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

On the web

Global Peasant:
- Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.
- Visit metronews.ca/globalpeasant to read Diane's recipe for raw sushi.

Local **Savour**

Messini
445 Danforth Ave.
416-778-4861
messini.ca
Chicken Gyros Pita, $4.61

While the Danforth has diversified its cuisine offerings to more than just great Greek food, that does not mean one should pass over the fare that made the area such a draw.

You can go to many places and get a good gyro but Messini's chicken gyro — they also offer pork and lamb — comes with an extra touch that makes it stand out. Along with the yummy tzatziki, onions, tomatoes and fresh off the spit meat, the French fries give it a unique touch. Messini's gyros are great as part of a sit-down meal but also make the perfect late-night snack — the restaurant stays open until 4 a.m. on weekends to feed the hungry crowds of patrons.

Avocado, apples and butter cake

Avocado and Watercress Cream

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS:
- A bunch of watercress
- A few sprigs of parsley
- A few scallions
- 1 clove garlic
- 1 lemon
- A few basil leaves
- 4 tbsp (60 ml) olive oil
- 2 large avocados
- Salt and black pepper
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) green peppercorns in brine

METHOD:

Discard stalks from watercress, then rinse and dry leaves. Rinse and dry parsley and strip leaves from stems.

Rinse scallions, chop off green tops, leaving whites for another dish, and put greens into blender or food processor with parsley and watercress.

Peel garlic and crush into parsley and watercress. Wash wax from lemon, grate rind, squeeze out juice and add both to blender. Rinse and dry basil leaves, then chop some and set aside for garnish. Add remaining leaves to mixture with olive oil.

Halve and pit avocados. Leaving shells intact, spoon flesh into blender and season. Process until smooth.

Spoon purée into shells, sprinkle with peppercorns and reserved basil, and serve.

Pork Fillet with Apple Mustard Sauce and, inset, Avocado and Watercress Cream.

Pork Fillet with Apple Mustard Sauce

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS:
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) chicken stock
- 1 1/3 lb (600 g) pork fillet
- 2 small dessert apples
- 4 scallions
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) olive oil
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1 sprig of fresh thyme
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) wholegrain mustard
- Salt and black pepper
- 5 tbsp (75 ml) heavy cream
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) Calvados or brandy

Garnish:
- 4 sprigs of thyme

METHOD:

Put chicken stock on to warm through. Trim off fat and tissue from pork fillet, then cut into 1/2 in. (1 cm) slices.

Rinse, quarter, core and slice apples, and rinse, trim and chop scallions. Set aside.

Heat oil in large frying pan, add pork fillet slices and fry over high heat 1 minute per side or until meat is very lightly browned.

Stir flour into pan and cook 2 minutes, stirring. Then add onions and stock and bring to boil, still stirring.

Rinse and dry 1 sprig of thyme, then strip leaves and add to pan with apples and mustard, salt and pepper. Continue cooking over moderate heat 4 minutes, or until pork is cooked through.

Stir cream into sauce, then simmer gently 2 minutes. Pour in Calvados or brandy, increase heat slightly and cook gently 2 minutes, then transfer onto four individual plates to serve, and garnish each with sprig of thyme.

Welsh Hot Butter Cake.

Welsh Hot Butter Cake

SERVES 8

INGREDIENTS:
- 1/4 lb (125 g) salted butter, at room temperature
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 1 cup plus 1 tbsp (265 ml) self-raising flour
- 4 tbsp (60 ml) golden raisins
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) milk

Topping:
- 2 1/2 tbsp (30 ml) salted butter, at room temperature
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) ground cinnamon

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 375 F (190 C). Grease 8 in. (20 cm) round non-stick cake pan with a little of the butter and line base with baking paper.

Using an electric whisk, cream remaining butter and sugar in bowl, until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at time, then fold in flour. Add raisins and milk and mix. Spread mixture in pan. Bake cake in centre of oven 15–20 minutes, until is well risen, firm and golden.

For spiced butter topping, put butter into mixing bowl with brown sugar and cinnamon and mash together.

When cake is done, remove from oven and spread butter over top. Leave to stand until butter has soaked in, then remove from tin, cut into wedges and serve.

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Just a dollar less

Women who do at least half their household's grocery shopping report they spend, on average, $115 per week on groceries, only a dollar less than the average in November 2007, according to a new poll from ShopSmart magazine. METRO NEWS SERVICES

LiquidAssets

Peter Rockwell

metronews.ca/liquidassets

Viva Italia!

While riding our roller-coaster economy has made many wine aficionados queasy enough to turn to inexpensive juice from North and South America; the lone Old World country that seems to be keeping its customer base on track is Italy.

Much of Italy's success comes from its ability to be just about everything to everybody. It's a long country with twenty different regions and three distinctive climate zones, which allows it to produce a wide variety of wines that are — for the most part — very consistent and extremely approachable right out of the bottle.

Italian grapes and geography have become synonymous with wine culture. I mean, even a diehard rum drinker has heard of Tuscany's Chianti region. That familiarity has made rich, plummy wines like **Frescobaldi's 2005 Nipozzano Chianti Rúfina Riserva ($21.75 - $27.95)** modern classics.

Though Pinot Grigio is now grown just about everywhere, **Santa Margherita's 2007 Pinot Grigio ($16.95 - $21.25)** was the first to bring the grape to the masses; making its clean, crisp personality a benchmark for Italian whites and opening the door for hundreds of imitators.

Try either with some homemade pasta or a pie from your favourite pizza joint.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

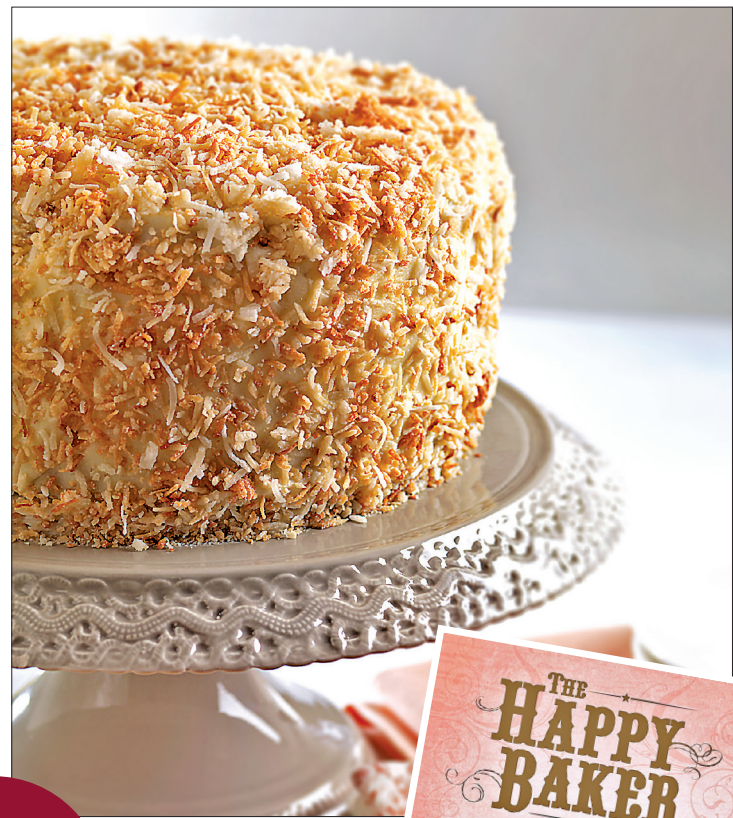
Eat this, ex-boyfriends

The Happy Baker: A Dater's Guide to Emotional Baking is a collection of recipes — most of which are unique to Erin Bolger's rural upbringing — matched with her own personal dating stories.

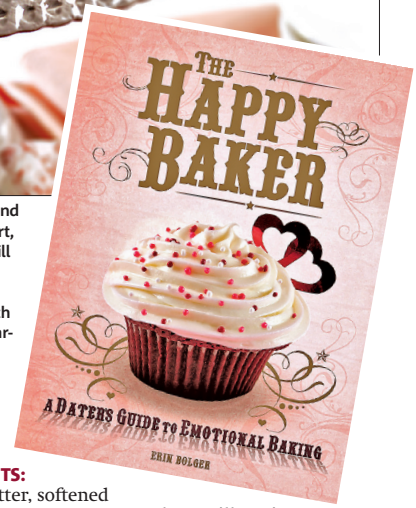
Each story is accompanied by Erin's easy-to-follow favourite recipes; some passed down from family and others her own twist on originals. All are tried, tested, true. She may not have always followed her Mom's dating advice, but she did follow her Mom's baking instructions, which always had a happy ending.

The Happy Baker: A Dater's Guide to Emotional Baking is available in select Chapters locations (call your local bookstore to check) and online at thehappybakerchick.com.

In the meantime, Metro borrowed this sumptuous (and sassy) recipe from the Happy Baker herself:



JASON HERVEY



Revenge never tasted this sweet

Anyone who has had heartbreak and turned to sugary treats for comfort, alone or with their girlfriends, will find solace in The Happy Baker, a cookbook that combines dating woes with delicious recipes — such as You Can Kiss My Triple Decker Carrot Cake Goodbye.

You Can Kiss My Triple Decker Carrot Cake Goodbye

It isn't yours for the taking anymore.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 ½ tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 ½ cups vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups finely grated carrots
- 1 can crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 cup walnuts, chopped
- 1 cup coconut

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 350 F (175 C) Grease and flour three 9-inch round cake pans.

In a large mixing bowl sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon.

Add sugar, oil and eggs; mix together for 3 minutes with a hand mixer.

Stir in carrots, pineapple, chopped nuts, and coconut.

Pour into prepared pans. Bake in preheated oven for 35 minutes or until centre is set.

Cream Cheese Icing

INGREDIENTS:

- ½ cup butter, softened
- 8 oz. package cream cheese, softened
- 500 g. icing sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ¼ cup toasted coconut for decorating

METHOD:

Cream together the butter and cream cheese. Add the vanilla. Stir in the icing sugar.

Spread evenly on the top of the first layer, add the second layer, spread evenly on that layer. Add third layer spread icing evenly all over cake. Spinkle with toasted coconut.

Refrigerate.

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Girls' night out for a great cause
Pro blowouts, mini-makeovers plus wine and cheese are on offer tonight for the low price of $30 plus a non-perishable food donation, with benefits going to the YWCA Toronto Women's Shelter. See ahairraisingevent.eventbrite.com and daddariohairco.com for more details. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Style

Chanel Nos. 1 to 5
Chanel has hired five new "ambassadors" to represent the brand. They are girls of the moment in the fashion world: Leigh Lezark , shown at left, Jen Brill, Poppy Delevingne, Caroline Sieber and Vanessa Traina.
KENYA HUNT/METRO WORLD NEWS

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Is it too **early** to shop **for fall?**

What to wear now and what to save for later

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News

Stores are already receiving fall shipments, and while it feels ridiculous to think about your autumn wardrobe now, here are a few reasons to try:

- It gets old staring at all the picked-over dregs from the summer collections lying around in the shops.
- You can start wearing about half of the major trends now.
- The more you shop, the more you help the economy.
- The fall trends are the most accessible they've been in ages. That means solid, wearable clothes you can rock in the office rather than too-trendy items that only make sense on the runway. Here are a few of fall's dominant trends and how to approach them.

KEY: Timeless · It's so right now · Take it from summer to fall · It's so trendy it has an expiration date · Wear it with caution · Office-friendly · Not for beginners · Looks great on almost everyone

1 Leather everything

During the fall shows, it came in chic little belted leather jackets (Yves Saint Laurent), hot skinny trousers (Alexander Wang) and cuffed shorts (Chloé.) It came slouchy, skin tight and tailored. In fact, leather will be everywhere for fall. The shorts are the most versatile. Pair them with a T-shirt and sandals for summer before wearing them with a sweater, tights and boots for winter.

Chloé

2 Thigh-high boots

Rodarte and Nicholas Kirkwood kicked the trend off during New York Fashion Week with a series of show-stealing, bandaged, thigh-high boots. Afterwards, the sexy shoes popped up everywhere — Stella McCartney, Gucci, Louis Vuitton, Isabel Marant, you name it. The appeal of the thigh-high boot is that it's universally sexy. The down side is that it's super trendy. The big question: Will women want to spend so much money on a shoe that may feel tired in a year?

Louis Vuitton

3 Power dressing

From Donna Karan's career- woman separates to Lanvin's sophisticated suits, fall has plenty to offer women for the office, whether the priority is nailing a job interview or scoring that promotion. Transition a sharp suit into your wardrobe now.

Lanvin

4 The bold shoulder

It's safe to say that the sharp, shoulder-padded Balmain jacket, and its legions of knockoffs, will rule fall — just the way it did summer. Just be mindful of the jacket's shape before you buy it. If ill fitting, shoulder pads can easily veer into bad 1990s territory. Pair it with a pair of men's trousers for day or ripped jeans and studded boots for night.

Balmain

expose yourself

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Quo Minerals Matter Blush in Peach Blossom, $20

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE

Toronto-based Nuworld Botanicals has a new line of aromatherapy products, including one for the sleep-challenged. Sweet Dreams, a blend of calming essential oils like lavender and camomile, does triple duty as a bath, hair and body oil. Changing your sleep habits can also help, says Dr. Mahalia Freed, owner of Dandelion Naturopathic Clinic in Toronto. Try using the bed for sex and sleep only and hitting the sack at the same time every night, suggests Freed.

PAS DE DEUX

Kirsten Owen, the ethereal Ontario-born model, has been muse to such heavy hitters as Helmut Lang, Steven Meisel and, for the past two years, Toronto designer Lida Baday. "I consider her an artist in her own right," says Baday, who saw Owen for the first time on a catwalk in the mid-'80s.) They met on the set of Baday's Spring 2008 campaign, art-directed by Diti Katona and shot by Chris Nicholls. "I've worked with Diti and Chris for years," says Baday. "Hours into that first shoot, Kirsten was part of the team." The admiration is mutual. "I love that they shoot me as I am — with no retouching," says Owen, praising Baday's clothes as "modern Audrey Hepburn with attitude."

To read these stories and more, visit **ellecanada.com**

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50 Cent squares off against Jay-Z
Rapper 50 Cent is preparing to go head-to-head with Jay-Z. He's reportedly releasing his new album on the same day as the hip-hop heavyweight — Sept. 11. 50 Cent did the same thing with Kanye West in 2007. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

Moving on
According to In Touch Weekly, Jon & Kate Plus 8 star Jon Gosselin has proposed to Hailey Glassman, just weeks after his estranged wife Kate filed for divorce.
POPEATER.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

5 questions for Steve & Frank

Comedians Frank Spadone and Steve Byrne are among the comedians taking part in the Just for Laugh's Ethnic Comedy Show at the Winter Garden Theatre on Friday and Saturday.

Sapdone, an Italian-Catholic, and Byrne — the son of a Korean mother and an Irish father — took a few minutes to ask each other about their experiences in comedy.

Frank Spadone interviews Steve Byrne

Spadone: **Do you have any ritual or "thing" you do before a show or to prepare yourself before a show?**

Byrne: I wake up, brush my teeth, get something to eat, return phone calls and check my emails, then I shower and then I am soooo in the zone. Then I smoke half a pack of cigarettes, drink three Red Bulls and watch Ray Liotta for inspiration.

Where/what is the worst experience you have had as far as accommodations when performing somewhere?

Whenever I perform in NYC my parents insist I stay with them. I am 34 years old and I'd like to stay in my own hotel, but they love having me home. Hearing your mother yell your name to wake up is never good. Whether you are six years old or 34.

Are there any topics you will not talk about?

I went to a Michael Buble concert and as a man, don't get good seats. It's not good for him or you. He's singing romantic songs and making eye contact with you. That is kind of not cool as a dude.

What was the most bizarre heckle you've experienced?

I killed your dad in Vietnam most likely takes the cake. I don't even know how to process that one.

Has anyone ever had such a distinct laugh that you still remember it today or hear it in your head? Describe

My girlfriend. She doesn't laugh, she guffaws. It's incredibly loud and piercing. The first few times she came to see me, I would say to myself, "What in God's name is … oh, that's just my girlfriend and she's sitting in the very back of the room."

Frank Spadone and Steve Byrne are among the comedians taking part in the Ethnic Comedy Show at the Winter Garden Theatre.

Steve Byrne interviews Frank Spadone

Byrne: **Name four members of the Stanley Cup winning Pittsburgh Penguins?**

Spadone: Sydney Crosby, Evgeni Malkin, Fleury, Maxim Talbot

If you had to spend an evening with one of The Golden Girls, who would it be and why?

They are all so hot I can't seem to pick one. I would love to date them all and have them fight over me.

How old were you for your first kiss?

I was 16, I thought WOW! Why aren't people making out all the time? Then I got my first hickey and I thought WOW! Why aren't people doing this all the time? Then I...

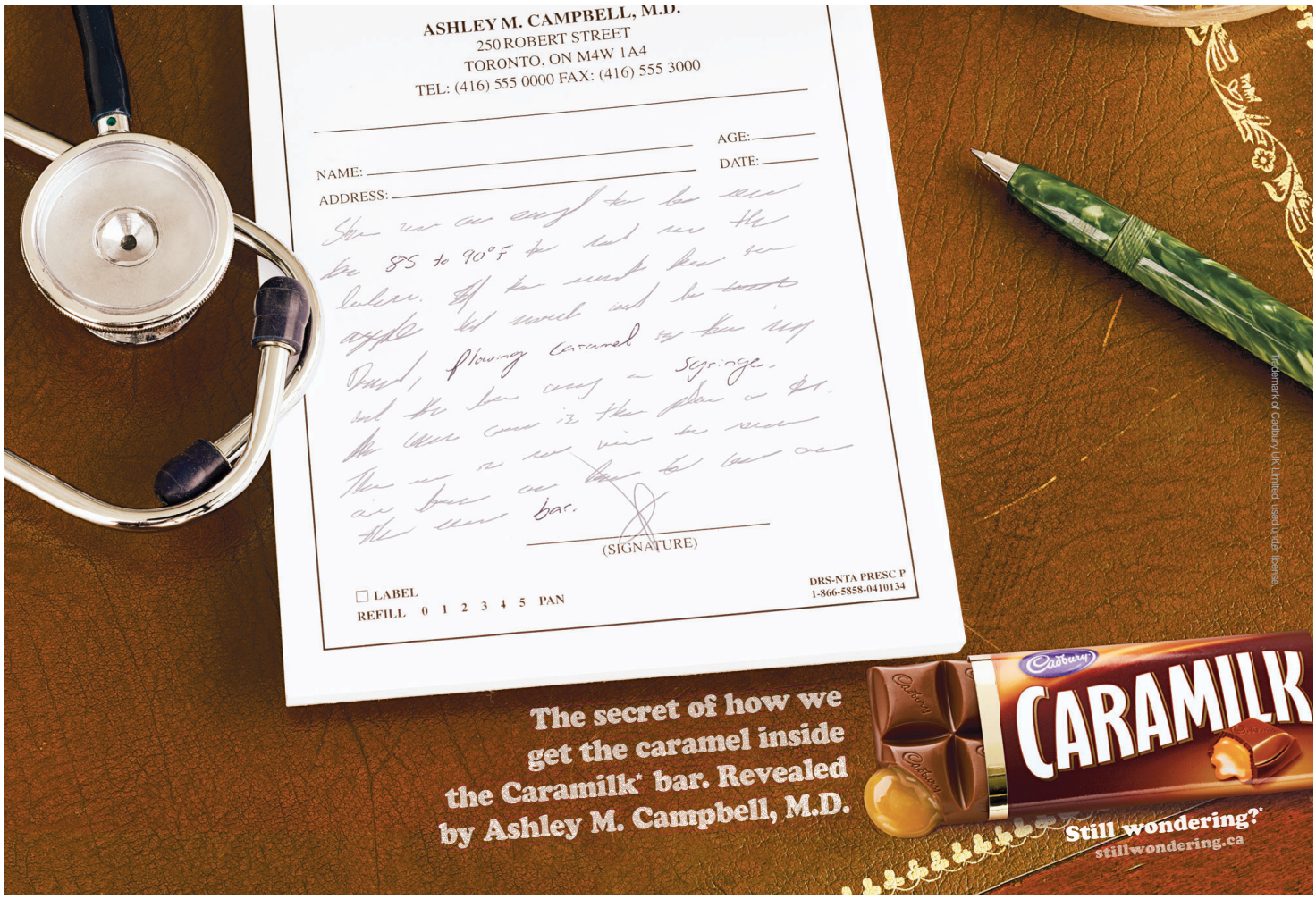
Who wins in a fight, you or Tie Domi?

On the ice Tie will win hands down. But, in a street fight I have some skills. He would probably try to grab me with one hand (because that is what he is used to). I would grab him in one of my Aikido moves and using his "chi" I will take him down almost effortlessly and then while still holding on to him I would take the heel of my foot and put him in a submission hold while he beats the crap out of me.

Is global warming a threat to Canada during the winter?

Yes, if it gets too warm where the heck are we going to play hockey?

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Gossip Girl's Crawford moves out

Looks like Ed Westwick's going to need a new roommate. His Gossip Girl co-star Chace Crawford now has a place of her own, having moved out of the New York City apartment they shared since being cast in the series, according to Us Weekly. METRO WORLD NEWS

Jackson's death could be homicide

Police in Los Angeles are refusing to confirm or deny a report that Michael Jackson's death is being treated as a homicide.

Entertainment gossip website TMZ is citing unnamed sources in a report that says investigators are treating the death of the self-proclaimed King of Pop as a homicide.

The report says the investigation is focusing on a possible link between Jackson's death and the use of the powerful anesthetic Propofol.

TMZ reports that the lawyer for Jackson's physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, would neither confirm nor deny if his client administered the Propofol.

A spokeswoman for the Los Angeles Police Department refused to comment on the report except to say the investigation into Jackson's death is ongoing.

A separate CBS report online, meanwhile, quoted LAPD member Sara Faden, who denied the investigation is being treated as a homicide.

Investigators have focused on the role drugs may have played in Jackson's death.

On Tuesday, Los Angeles assistant chief corner Ed Winter went to the offices of Dr. Arnold Klein, Jackson's dermatologist, seeking subpoenaed medical records. He did not get the documents but said Klein's office had promised to provide them.

Klein has said he sometimes sedated the pop star for medical procedures but never prescribed Propofol.

A maker of the Propofol found in Michael Jackson's home has been contacted by federal officials investigating the pop star's death and has recalled tens of thousands of vials of the drug after two tainted lots sickened dozens of patients.

There is no apparent connection between the bacterial contamination that prompted the recall and Jackson's death on June 25, Teva Pharmaceuticals spokeswoman Denise Bradley said on Tuesday.

The tracking number on the tainted lots was different from the number on a vial that Drug Enforcement Administration investigators told the company was found at Jackson's home, she said.

A central question in the Jackson investigation is who provided that drug and other prescription medications found at his rented Beverly Hills mansion.

Investigators are talking to doctors who treated Jackson.

Meanwhile, a nurse who provided nutritional therapy for Michael Jackson said Tuesday that she was interviewed by Los Angeles homicide detectives who told her needle marks were found on the pop singer the day he died.

Cherilyn Lee said she told the detectives that she didn't see any so-called "track marks" on Jackson's arms when she visited his home to provide vitamins and other supplements earlier this year.

The detectives replied that "the day the paramedics came (to Jackson's house), he had a lot of track marks," Lee said.

Lee also was asked in the interview at her office last Friday if she saw bruising on Jackson. Lee said she didn't but told police Jackson's veins were small, which made placing an IV needle difficult and could result in bruising.

Lee has said Jackson asked her for Diprivan, the brand-name version of Propofol, to alleviate his insomnia. She said she refused to help him get access to the drug.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michael Jackson

Drug eyed

- Federal authorities are considering making the potent anesthetic propofol a controlled substance, which would put new limits on its distribution.

MJ sales soaring

- Michael Jackson has sold 2.3 million CDs since he died three weeks ago. Grieving fans and those just wanting to hear his music again have snapped up his albums, including Thriller and Number Ones — his greatest-hits collection. Last week, 1.1 million copies of his albums were sold, according to sales figures from Nielsen SoundScan. That represents a 37 per cent jump from the week before.

There's a time and a place for comedy.

Victor's Picks

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Thursday, July 16	7pm	All-Star Gala 7pm		The Danny Bhoy Show · 7pm Colin & Brad · 7:30pm			Bo Burnham 7pm					
	8pm					Headliners 8pm		The Canadian Masters 8:30pm		Jon Dore 8pm	John Leguizamo Live 8pm	
	9pm	All-Star Gala 9:30pm					French Comedy Bastards 9:30pm					
	10pm											
	11pm						The Sketch Show 11:30pm					
Friday, July 17	7pm	Sarah Silverman & Friends 7pm	The Ethnic Comedy Show 7pm	The Danny Bhoy Show · 7pm Colin & Brad · 7:30pm		Headliners 7:30pm	Bo Burnham 7pm					
	8pm				The Nasty Show 8pm			Homegrown Comic Competition 8pm	Nikki Payne 8pm		John Leguizamo Live 8pm	
	9pm	Sarah Silverman & Friends 9:30pm	The Ethnic Comedy Show 9:30pm				French Comedy Bastards 9:30pm					
	10pm					Headliners 10:30pm		The Canadian Masters 10:45pm	"Sing Mit Heino" A Musikal Komödie Kabaret · 10:00pm			
	11pm				The Nasty Show 11pm		The Sketch Show 11:30pm					
Saturday, July 18	7pm	Britcom Gala 7pm	The Ethnic Comedy Show 7pm	The Danny Bhoy Show · 7pm Colin & Brad · 7:30pm		Headliners 7:30pm	Bo Burnham 7pm					
	8pm				The Nasty Show 8pm			The Canadian Masters 8pm	Nikki Payne 8pm		John Leguizamo Live 8pm	
	9pm	Britcom Gala 9:30pm	The Ethnic Comedy Show 9:30pm				French Comedy Bastards 9:30pm					
	10pm					Headliners 10:30pm		The Canadian Masters 10:45pm	"Sing Mit Heino" A Musikal Komödie Kabaret · 10:00pm			
	11pm						The Sketch Show 11:30pm					
Sunday, July 19	7pm			The Danny Bhoy Show 7pm								
	8pm											Just For Laughs: Hinglish 8pm

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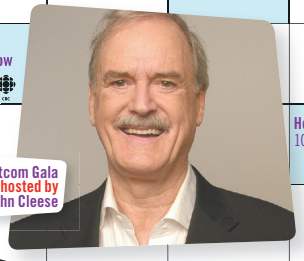

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Brüno banned in Ukraine

Ukraine's Culture Ministry says it has banned Sacha Baron Cohen's new hit movie Brüno because it is immoral. The movie is centred around the adventures of a flamboyant gay fashion journalist from Austria. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Billy Talent takes major step forward

Billy Talent

Album: Billy Talent III
Label: Warner
Rating:

WHETHER THEY DESERVE it or not, the dreaded pop-punk tag has been following Billy Talent around for years. It's been a tough label to shake, but on the band's third release they've finally done it. The new record is a major step forward for the band, who've traded catchy, sometimes juvenile pop, for massive Sabbath-like riffs. The first half of the disc is filled with meaty songs and intricate harmonies, showing a growing band. While the group does fall into some old habits on the second half, let's hope this louder, more metal (but still poppy) Billy Talent is here to stay.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Cana-

WARNER MUSIC PHOTO

Billy Talent trade catchy, sometimes juvenile pop, for massive Sabbath-like riffs on Billy Talent III.

The Dead Weather

Album: Horehound
Label: Warner
Rating:

da

ANY ACT WITH the gifted Jack White could be considered a supergroup, but the Dead Weather, which includes the Kills' Alison Mosshart and guys from Queens of the Stone Age and The Raconteurs, really is one. The band's debut is a gothic-blues rock assault, with big riffs, creepy piano and weird guitar sounds making up the bulk of the music. Mosshart tackles most of the vocals, though the best moments are when her and White — who's on drums — sing together. While it's not as good as the musicians' other projects, it's still a fun and intriguing listen.

MusicReviews

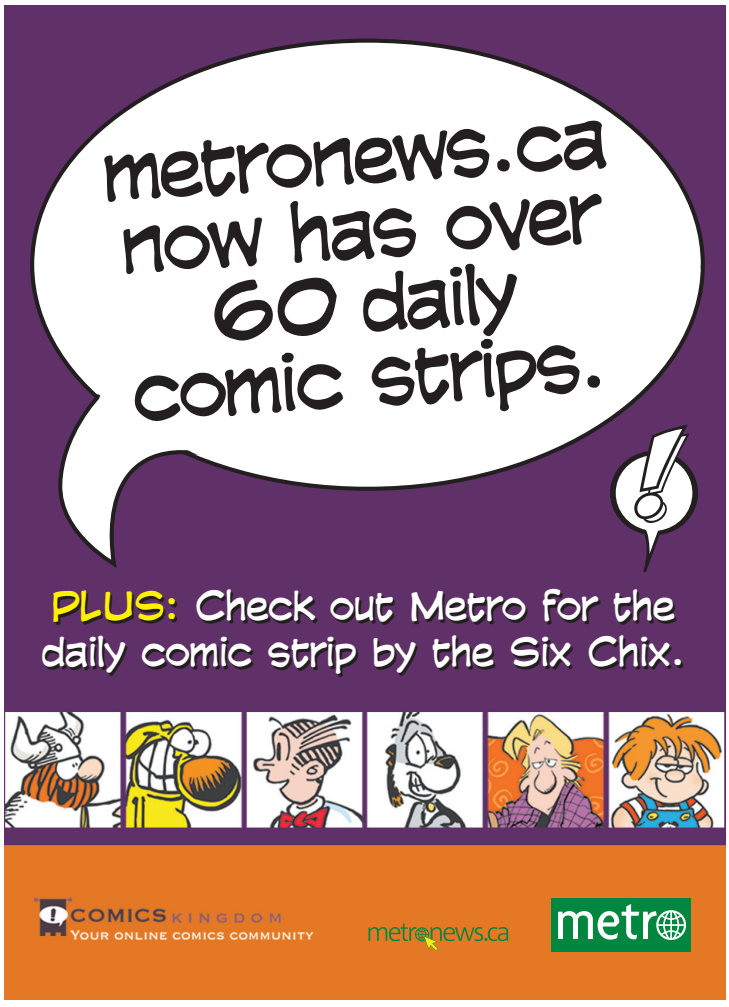
music@metronews.ca

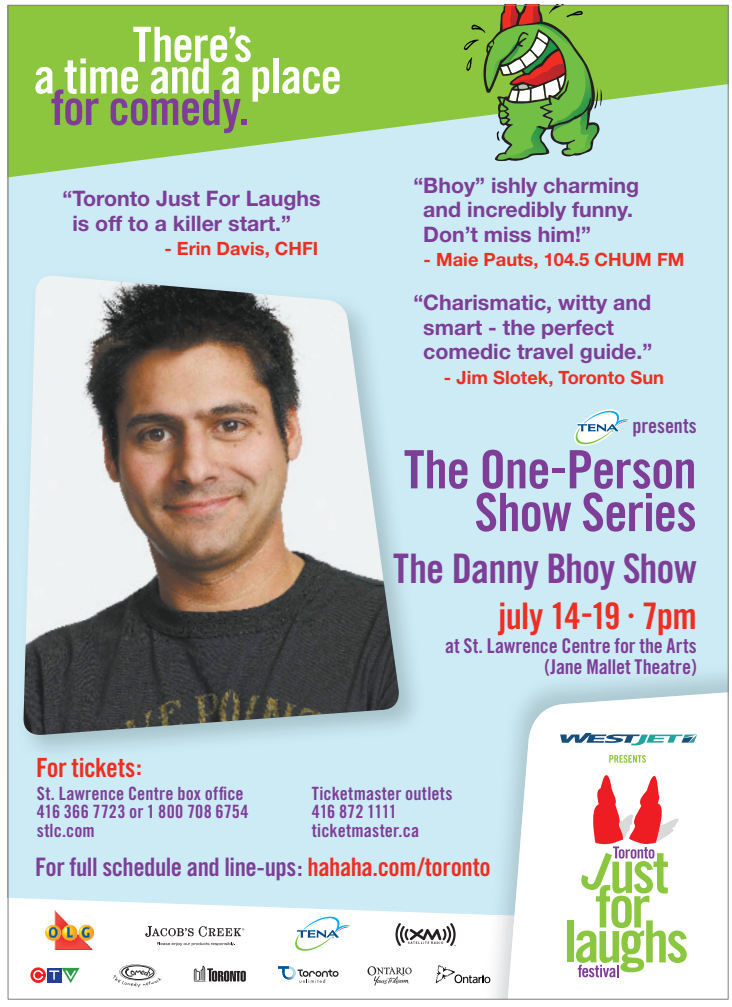
God Made Me Funky

Album: Welcome to Nu Funktonia **Label:** New Empire
Rating:

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

THIS COULD EASILY have been just a very fine retro-soul-funk album by a remarkable eight-piece band that's been electrifying Toronto-area dance floors for more than a decade. Instead we get a delightful merger of old-school hand-clapping funkadelic with contemporary electronic beats. It's funk through the ages, a regular funkology. There's guest spots by Seven Day Lover singer Jully Black and Swollen Member Moko Only, as well as a collaboration with all three members of '70s suburban rockers Triumph. Yes, brothers and sisters, we've all been given the gift of funk. Everything else is merely a question of self-repression. C'mon, Get down, Get out. Huh.Huh.Huh. This is a party you don't want to miss.





Merritt Mountain Music Festival could be over

After 17 years of bringing the world's biggest country music stars to the heart of British Columbia's ranching country, organizers of the Merritt Mountain Music Festival say the show could be coming to an end. They say the festival can't continue without extra financial backing. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Daughtry

Album: Leave This Town
Label: RCA/Sony Music
Rating: ●●½

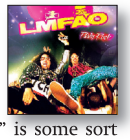
IT'S ONLY CHRIS

Daughtry's second album and he's already settled into a corporate template that's interchangeable with his own debut and the last three Nickelback CDs. Just to make sure the colouring didn't venture outside the lines, the label even hooked Daughtry up with Nickelback hitmaker Chad Kroeger for two co-writes on the album, including the uber-earnest rock ballad No Surprise. It's not polite to hit on a guy for producing a record that is sure to appeal to fans, but the sameness of it all becomes irritating before the end of the third track. Even the potentially potent collaboration with country star Vince Gill (Tennessee Line) gets painted over with two or three extra coats of sameness. No Surprise is right. There's certainly none here.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

LMFAO

Album: Party Rock
Label: Interscope/Universal
Rating: ½



THE NAME OF this crotch-rubbing DJ duo from Hollywood implies that their "music" is some sort of a joke (parents, if you don't know the meaning of LMFAO, ask your kids). But this stuff is no laughing matter. Totally offensive and with no redeeming qualities, this record has all the wit of a fart joke. It has been made for pubescent boys who have never been invited to a real party, let alone attended one. And if you do have the misfortune of finding yourself at a party that's playing LMFAO's "hit" I'm in Miami, B—, it's probably a good time to leave. There is actually one relatively inoffensive song on the album, the bubblegummy La La La. It's not offensive. It's just bad.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Cana-

Sony Music photo

Daughtry, fronted by American Idol finalist Chris Daughtry, centre, offers no surprises on its new disc.

Twista

Album: Category F5
Label: Get Money Gang/EMI
Rating: ●●●

da

ON EACH NEW album, Twista's challenge is the same — to prove he's more than just the quickest on the mic. So what kind of substance does the Guinness record-setting Chicago MC bring on his seventh full-length? By what can be grasped from his nimble flow, very little. The basics are covered: Twista's status as a gangsta, hustler, and Billionaire, as guest Busta Rhymes can confirm. But while he's not rhyming about anything important or interesting, it's hard to deny his impressive delivery over slick, synthesized (and, sorry Jay-Z, autotune-heavy) productions like Jump Off or On Top with Akon.

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Peters makes Forbes list

Canadian comedian Russell Peters is listed in Forbes: 10 Top Earning Comedians with estimated earnings of $10 million US. On Saturday, Peters is scheduled to host a free outdoor show as part of Toronto's Just For Laughs festival at Yonge-Dundas square. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment in brief

CANUCK PRIDE Canadian country-folk legend Stompin' Tom Connors says he wants to perform at the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver, but doesn't know if he'll get the call. "I'd love to do it, either the opening or the closing, I think it'd be a great honour," Connors said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Parliament gets KISSed

For KISS rocker Gene Simmons it was probably tame, but for parliamentary officials, it was probably the wildest tour they've ever given.

While in Ottawa for Bluesfest, Simmons and his partner Shannon Tweed were given a semi-private tour of the House of Commons, parliamentary library and Senate.

Nepean-Carleton MP Pierre Poilievere gave the couple the abridged Canadian civics lesson as they walked the halls.

The pair seemed genuinely impressed with the library and works gathering dust on the shelves — including an original copy of every speech given in the House.

During a pause the St. John's, Nfld.-born Tweed was asked if the library included a copy of her book, Kiss and Tell.

"I don't think so," Tweed replied with a smile.

Moving on with their guide, the group was taken to the Senate where the famous couple were greeted by a couple of senators.

"Can you fire them?" Tweed asked.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gene Simmons of the band KISS has his mouth covered by his Canadian wife Shannon Tweed as he speaks to the media during a tour of Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Tuesday.

As Simmons and Tweed walked the Senate, the former Playboy Playmate took a break and sat down in the Speaker's chair.

She was told not to sit on the red velvet chairs behind: those are only for the Queen and her consort.

Tweed then said that the couple had recently filed Canadian citizenship papers for their grown children, Nick and Sophie.

But it was outside the Senate where Simmons provided the biggest laugh of the day. A member of the media asked Tweed her thoughts about Ottawa city council snubbing her when they reversed a decision to declare July 15 Shannon Tweed Day.

"It's going to be Shannon Tweed Day back at the hotel," she said.

Simmons was asked for his response.

"Not everyone liked Jesus either," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
7/16/09	265	353	2 TVO	Thunderbeast		The Best of The Agenda		Admission Impossible		Chinese School		Best-Agenda
primetime	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Big Brother 11 (Live)		The Office	The Office	House		News
	215	343	4 OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Doc Zone (HDTV)		Doc Zone (HDTV)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		30 Rock	Less-Kind	According-Jim	30 Rock	Law & Order: UK		News (N)
	212	313	8 CTV	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		So You Think You Can Dance		(10:01) The Listener		News (N)
	218	345	11 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	How I Met	'Til Death	True Hollywood Story		The Beast		News (N)
	137	763	13 TFO	Panorama été	Esprit	Sur la Piste de	Villages	*Betty* ★★ (1992, Drame) Marie Trintignant, Stéphane Audran.				Esprit
	-	-	14 -	Raymond	According-Jim	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15 SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Smallville "Committed"		Supernatural (HDTV)		To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Brother 11 (Live)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) The Mentalist		News (N)
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	30 Rock	The Office	The Office	30 Rock	(10:01) The Listener		News (N)
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	JK Rowling		Grey's Anatomy		(10:02) Private Practice		News (N)
	219	346	20 ACH-B	The Road to Avonlea		JK Rowling		Greek "Mr. Purr-fect" (N)		(10:02) Private Practice		News (N)
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA)		So You Think You Can Dance		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	My Hero	Doc Martin "City Slickers"		Color of War II: British Story		MI-5 "Love and Death"		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Committed"		Supernatural (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331 SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil Addictions.		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332 TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Marketplace	The Hour		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports		House of Cards				Mad Money
sports	405	417	22 net	MLB Baseball Philadelphia Phillies at Florida Marlins. From Land Shark Stadium in Miami.						Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30 TSN	Boxing Joshua Clottey vs. Miguel Cotto.			CFL Pregame	CFL Football BC Lions at Edmonton Eskimos. (HDTV) (Live)				
	411	457	58 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Cycling Tour de France -- Stage 12. From Tonnerre to Vittel.						Cycling
	417	406	81 SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV) (N)		Jacked! (N)	Jacked! (N)	Wrecked (N)	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25 YTV	Family Biz	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	In Real Life		Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45 TEL	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	*The Invincible Iron Man* (2007, Action) Voices of Marc Worden.			
	556	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27 W	Style by Jury	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Divine Design	Love It-List It	House
	570	580	29 MM	One Tree Hill		Degrassi: TNG	Instant Star	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		Video on Trial	Born to Be	One Tree Hill
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami "Rap Sheet"		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 "Last Wish"		Crime 360 (HDTV) (N)		Crime 360
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Il Minestrone				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36 MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out.		Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38 CMT	Sessions	Trace Adkins	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Tuckerville
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		Love-Death	Love-Death	*Lethal Obsession* (2007, Suspense) Kellie Martin.				House
	620	523	40 BVO	Storytellers	Snapshot	Bathroom Divas-Opera Star		*Wilby Wonderful* ★★ (2004, Comedy-Drama), Paul Gross				Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Last 10	Last 10	Last 10	Last 10	Bulging Brides	Bulging Brides	ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	NCIS		Ancient Discoveries		Lost Inventions		NCIS		Marine Mach.
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Now (DVS)		Daily Show
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Handyman Superstar		Disaster DIY	Big Amazing	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*Patriot Games* ★★★ (1992, Suspense)		
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*Light It Up* ★★ (1999, Drama) Usher Raymond.				The Game	The Game	W. Williams
	627	528	50 SPC	The Listener "Iris" (N)		Star Trek: Voyager		*Descendant* (2003, Suspense) Jeremy London, Katherine Heigl.				Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52 MTV	Room Raiders	After	MTV News	Cribs	Canada's Next Top Model		Canada's Next Top Model		MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	Traders		Inside Hollywood		Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld
	603	561	56 FOOD	Chef at Home	Crash-Kitchen	Restaurant Makeover		Jamie's Kitchen		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Boys Weekend
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Wait for God	'Allo, 'Allo!	*Space Cowboys* ★★★ (2000, Adventure) Clint Eastwood, Tommy Lee Jones.				
	621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		Tonight Show-Conan O'Brien		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Zigby	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101 TVA	Dépenses xtr	Marché	Dr. House (HDTV) (SC)		Mollie (HDTV) (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:35) Juste pour rire (SC)	
	126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy		Most Haunted (Part 1 of 2)		The Closer (Part 2 of 2)		Passion	Homicide File	Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301 M1	(6:25) *Eagle Eye* ★★ (2008, Action)			Nurse Jackie	*Bottle Shock* ★★ (2008, Drama) Alan Rickman.				Penn & Teller
	305	612	306 PIX	*Gattaca*	*Johnny Reno* ★ (1966, Western)			*Exit Wounds* ★ (2001, Action), DMX			(10:45) *The Dark* ★★	

critics' corner

30 Rock
Pete (Scott Adsit) forgets Valentine's Day as the cast, stricken by some iffy sushi, pulls an all-nighter to put together a new show. Romance starts to blossom between Kenneth and Cerie (Jack McBrayer, Katrina Bowden). Liz (Tina Fey) is curious when she receives flowers from a secret admirer. Jack (Alec Baldwin) wants to celebrate his newly divorced status with Tracy (Tracy Morgan) in "Up All Night." 8 PM on NBC CITY

J.K. Rowling: A Year in the Life
Timed to the release of the newest Harry Potter film, this hour-long documentary follows the author during the months prior to publication of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," the final book in the series. The program shows the one-bedroom Scottish apartment where the saga began as well as scenes from Rowling's hometown, the church where she once worked as a janitor and her life as a mother. 8 PM on ABC ACH-B

New Potter film a midnight marauder

BREAKING RECORDS Harry Potter has conjured up a record-breaking witching hour.

Warner Bros. says Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince took in $22.2 million US from American midnight screenings.

That breaks the record set by another Warner blockbuster, The Dark Knight, which grossed $18.5 million from midnight showings last summer.

Britney not going to Poland

TOURING Britney Spears' "Circus" won't be going to Warsaw following a dispute between her international and Polish organizers. The July 24 concert has now been cancelled.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

Redford weds artist
Robert Redford married artist Sibylle Szaggars on Saturday evening at the luxury Louis C. Jacob Hotel in Hamburg, Germany, in front of 30 family and friends, it has been confirmed by people.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

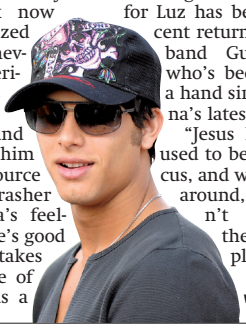
Jesus getting boy-toy message

JUST LUST FOR LUZ Madonna's 22-year-old Brazilian boy-toy, Jesus Luz, may be ready to walk now that he's realized the singer will never take him seriously, sources say.

"He's pretty and she can boss him around," a source tells Gatecrasher about Madonna's feelings for Luz. "He's good in bed. And he takes really good care of her kids. But as a life partner? No. He's child's play."

Making matters worse for Luz has been the recent return of ex-husband Guy Ritchie who's been lending a hand since Madonna's latest adoption. "Jesus has gotten used to being her focus, and when Guy is around, that doesn't happen," the source explains.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Zooey's acting jitters

THE ARTIST'S LAMENT Zooey Deschanel worries she doesn't know how to act, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

She feels like a new and inexperienced actress every time she starts work on a new movie and struggles to gauge how well she has done.

She said: "That's part of what makes acting so scary for me because like there will be total moments where I will be like, 'I have no idea what I am doing.'

"Acting is not a quantifiable thing. You cannot put a number on it. You cannot be like, 'OK I have done my 10 hours and my work is done.'"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jada dishes on sex ride

HOT, HOT SEAT In the latest issue of Shape magazine, Jada Pinkett Smith continues her campaign to let everyone know about her and husband Will Smith's fabulous sex life.

"When you have three kids, you've got to take your opportunities when they come," the Hawthorne star says, dishing about a very steamy limousine ride.

"On the way to the Academy Awards this year, Will started looking at me in this way that drives me wild.

"We started kissing passionately, and the next thing I knew, well, let's just say we missed the red carpet and I ended up with almost no makeup on."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Hudgens is all about career

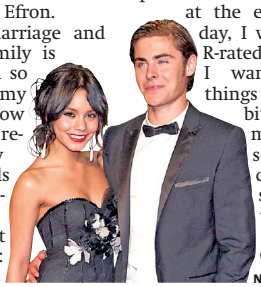
ZAC CAN WAIT High School Musical star Vanessa Hudgens isn't interested in settling down anytime soon with her co-star and boyfriend, Zac Efron.

"I think marriage and starting a family is great, but I'm so focused on my career right now that it doesn't really cross my mind," she tells People magazine.

And about that career: Hudgens is ready to leave the Disney fare that made her a star behind.

"The fact that kids look up to me is flattering. But at the end of the day, I want to do R-rated films, and I want to do things that are a bit edgier, so maybe some kids can't see some of them."

METRO WORLD NEWS



'We raided Neverland'

O BROTHER! WHERE ART THOU? Despite Michael Jackson's reported orders that his family not be permitted inside the gates of Neverland for fear they would observe him abusing prescription drugs, older brother Tito Jackson claims that his siblings once staged a raid in an attempted intervention, people.com reports.

"I never saw (Michael) on drugs. Not once. He deliberately did it away from us. He didn't want his family to know anything about that part of him. He did almost everything in his power to make sure we didn't know," Jackson, 55, tells Britain's Daily Mirror in a lengthy interview Wednesday.

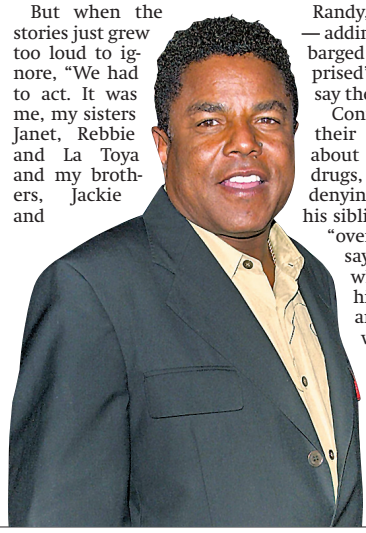
But when the stories just grew too loud to ignore, "We had to act. It was me, my sisters Janet, Rebbie and La Toya and my brothers, Jackie and Randy," says Jackson — adding that they all barged in and "surprised" Michael, "to say the least."

Confronted with their questions about his doing drugs, Michael "kept denying it" and told his siblings they were "overreacting," says Jackson, who, along with his brothers and sisters, were assured by Michael's doctor that the King of Pop was "healthy."

"We didn't know what to believe. We didn't take what Michael said as the truth," admits Tito, who said his brother's staff at Neverland "literally shut us out. I don't know if they were just doing their job or if it they were part of some kind of conspiracy."

Michael Jackson, whose June 25 death is now being treated as a homicide by the LAPD according to TMZ, is believed to have first become hooked on painkillers as the result of the scalp burns he sustained while filming a 1984 Pepsi commercial. Jackson says his awareness of the problem wasn't until 1993, when Michael was treated in a London rehab clinic.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Kelly works to battle grief

GETTING OVER LOSS Kelly Preston is throwing herself into work to get over the tragic death of her son, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress — who was left devastated when her 16-year-old son Jett with husband John Travolta suffered a fatal seizure during a family holiday in the Bahamas in January — has been filming tough scenes for new movie Casino Jack and it is helping her to deal with her grief.

The film's director George Hickenlooper said: "She wanted to do this to get back to work. She talked to me about her loss. She is deeply affected by it and brought that to her character."

Preston and Travolta — who also have an eight-year-old daughter Ella Bleu — are still trying to cope with the loss of Jett, who they recently held a private memorial for at their home in Florida.

A source said: "Both Kelly and John's grief is raw and it's going to take them a long time to recover from this."

Earlier this month, it was revealed Preston will speak publicly for the first time about Jett's death. She will address the California Governor's Conference for Women in October, after being persuaded to by host Maria Shriver.

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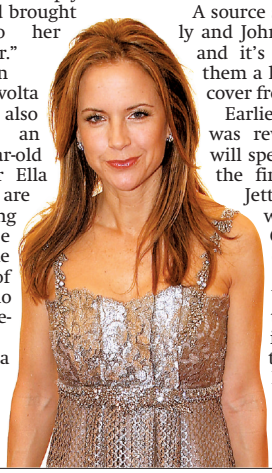


Fox hunting for another house

SINGLE AGAIN? Megan Fox is looking for a home of her own. The Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen star spent the weekend checking out homes in the Hollywood Hills neighbourhood with a real estate agent, according to the Daily Mail. Fox is reportedly looking for something in $2 million to $3 million US price range. Since she currently shares a home in Brentwood, Calif., with on-again, off-again boyfriend Brian Austin Green, does this suggest that the couple is once again off? "I'm currently what you would call single, I guess," Fox said recently.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Did Jess get dumped over Mayer?

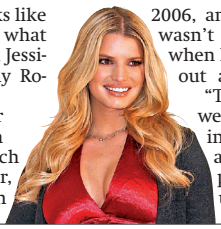
VEXED BY THE EX It looks like a famous ex may be what finally came between Jessica Simpson and Tony Romo.

Sources tell Radar Online that Simpson was keeping in touch with John Mayer, whom she dated in 2006, and Romo wasn't thrilled when he found out about it.

"They were hanging out and he picked up her phone and she got defensive about it. Tony found messages from John and went ballistic," a source says.

"Tony dumped her right then. He walked out and that was it."

METRO WORLD NEWS



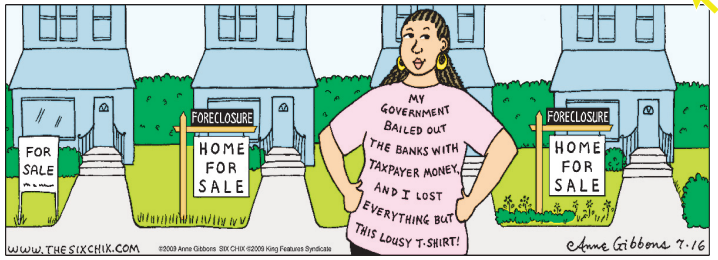
Bass not giving up space ambitions

SKY'S THE LIMIT Former boy-bander Lance Bass hasn't given up on his dream of traveling into space. Bass famously made a bid to go into orbit on a Russian rocket in 2002, but that plan fizzled. "I'm a trained astronaut, and it's my time to go," Bass said.

METRO WORLD NEWS

ComicsOnline

For more cartoons, visit metronews.ca



The Weather Network 20 YEARS
TWN incorporates MSC data

Today Variable 27° / 14°
Friday Partly cloudy 23° / 13°
Saturday Showers 40% 20° / 14°

The Weather Network theweathernetwork.com
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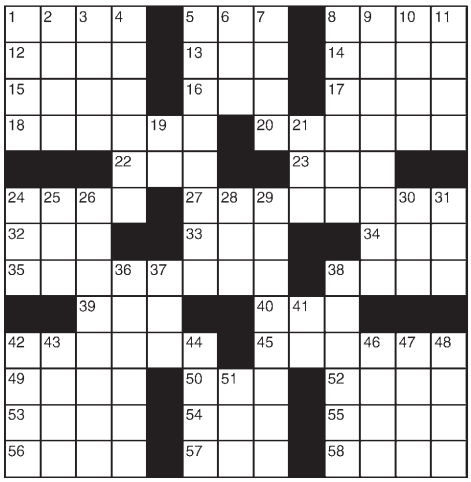
Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**



Crossword across

1 Bellow
5 Indispensable
8 Not up and about
12 Shrek is one
13 Epoch
14 Wheel hub
15 Evidenced a pinprick
16 Present
17 Smooth-talking
18 Old salt
20 Witch's incantations
22 Mound stat
23 Crafty
24 Deer little one?
27 Plundered
32 Eggs
33 Kimono belt
34 "— the ramparts ..."
35 Borrow money
38 Slow
39 Flightless bird
40 Rotation duration
42 Indicates "I dunno"
45 Star-related
49 Lofty
50 Hooter
52 Vagrant
53 Shaving cream additive
54 Privy
55 Piece of work
56 Ink smudge
57 Yoko of music
58 Profits

Crossword down

1 Plagiarizes
2 Watch impolitely
3 Vicinity
4 Blush
5 Aussie critter
6 Id counterpart
7 Evergreens
8 "— & Demons"
9 Flamboyant pitch
10 Satan's forte
11 Socialist candidate Eugene
19 If not
21 Omega preceder
24 Navigation hindrance
25 St. crosser
26 Napoleon's downfall
28 Lawyers' org.
29 Curried recipe
30 "A mouse!"
31 Desiccate
36 Charm
37 Drag along
38 Big constrictor
41 For example
42 Impale
43 Corridor
44 Song for one
46 Hitchcock tour de force
47 Touch
48 Privation
51 Triumphed

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

			1			4		
9		8		3			5	
6			9			7		
		6		5	7			1
	8						4	
5			6	2		9		
		4			3			7
	7			6		2		5
		3			8			

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

E	L	S	E		E	E	L		A	C	H	E
C	A	I	N		A	L	E		R	O	O	D
H	O	T	S	T	U	F	F		E	L	B	E
O	S	S	I	E			T	E	N	D	O	N
			L	A	M	A		O	A	F		
L	A	C	E		O	V	E	N		E	A	R
A	G	O		B	L	O	T	S		E	R	A
G	E	L		O	D	I	N		S	T	E	W
		D	N	A		D	A	M	P			
E	S	C	O	R	T			E	L	O	P	E
T	H	U	S		H	O	T	W	A	T	E	R
C	O	T	E		A	D	O		S	T	A	G
H	E	S	S		W	E	E		H	O	S	S

9	1	2	6	3	8	7	5	4
7	6	8	1	5	4	9	3	2
3	4	5	7	9	2	1	8	6
5	8	3	2	6	7	4	1	9
2	7	1	3	4	9	5	6	8
4	9	6	5	8	1	2	7	3
1	2	4	8	7	3	6	9	5
8	5	7	9	2	6	3	4	1
6	3	9	4	1	5	8	2	7

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

MEGAN MCCHESNEY

Mango Curried Chicken

Submitted by Laurie Chambers, Toronto, ON

submitted by a Club Member!

INGREDIENTS:

1 can of mangoes
1 chicken breast
1 bunch of fresh cilantro
1 tbsp of madras curry paste
1 package of vermicelli rice noodles

METHOD:

Empty the juice/syrup of the can of mangoes into a pot warming on the stove. Add the tbsp of curry paste and stir.

Once the curry paste has dissolved into the juice, add the chicken in cubes or strips. Once the chicken is thoroughly cooked, add some chopped cilantro to taste. At this time, add the mangos that are left in the can (cut to edible size). Cook for 3 min.

Place Mango Curry Chicken over cooked rice noodles and serve hot. Add a sprig of fresh cilantro to garnish.

SERVES 2-4
PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 10 MINUTES

20 minute SUPPER CLUB

20 Minute Supper Club helps you get dinner ready in a snap. Sign up for quick and delicious recipes, cooking and food tips. It's free at **20minutesupperclub.com**

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

sallybrompton.com

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You have never been the type to follow the herd. Go your own way, do your own thing and, if certain people don't like it, do it some more.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
No matter your age or your social position you will come up with a vision that leaves those you work and do business with dumbstruck in admiration.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Use your powers of persuasion to make sure you get your share of whatever financial and material goodies may be up for grabs.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Take a few chances today. With mind planet Mercury linked in the best possible way to Uranus, your ideas will be, to say the least, a bit out of the ordinary.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Don't sit there waiting for others to make the first move. You're a Leo, you're supposed to be a leader, not a follower.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
The whole world seems to be singing your praises, which is nice, but don't let it go to your head. You know what they say about pride coming before a fall.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
The best way to handle the stress in your life is to take nothing too seriously, not even yourself.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
You can do almost anything you like today, but there is one thing you must not do and that is to let other people speak for you.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
You may not want to believe that someone would cheat you, but can you afford to take the chance? Be on the lookout for signs of evasiveness today.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Not only will you be daring in action today but your mind will be razor sharp, and with that kind of combination you are sure to go far.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A good deed you do for someone you barely know will have a number of positive effects over the next few days.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Your highly artistic nature will be much in demand today and you may have to turn down offers because you already have too much on your plate.

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Royal Bank Plaza
Scarborough Town Centre
Sherway Gardens
Shops at Don Mills
Toronto Eaton Centre
Toronto Stock Exchange Tower
Woodbine Centre
Yorkdale Mall
2187 Queen St. E (The Beach)
2365 Yonge St. (north of Eglinton)
363 Front St. W (City Place)
455 Danforth Ave.
720 King St. W
38 - 1500 Royal York Rd.
8 - 1750 The Queensway
1184 Kennedy Rd.
3 - 2610 Weston Rd.
1061 St. Clair Ave. W
104 - 5050 Dufferin St.

WEST

Burlington Mall
Mapleview Mall
Milton Crossroads Centre
420 Main St.

Brampton
Bramalea City Centre
2880 Queen St. E (Hwy. 7 & Airport Rd.)
55 Mountainash Rd. (Springdale Square)
10 - 80 Pertosa Dr.

Mississauga
Dixie Outlet Mall
Erin Mills Town Centre
Heartland Town Centre
Square One
Winston Churchill & 401
2458 Dundas St. W
6535B Mississauga Rd.
G16 - 3024 Hurontario St.
101 - 6200 Dixie Rd.
9 - 34 Bristol Rd. E
2 - 4920 Tomken Rd.

Oakville
Oakville Place
RioCan Burloak
18 - 2501 Third Line
760 Pacific Rd.

NORTH

Markham
Markville Shopping Centre
Pacific Mall

Newmarket
Upper Canada Mall
1100 Gorham St.

Richmond Hill
Hillcrest Shopping Centre
4 - 11005 Yonge St.
9301 Bathurst St.

Stouffville
1076 Hoover Park Dr.

Thornhill
Promenade Mall
7171 Yonge St. (Galleria)
7378 Yonge St.

Vaughan
Vaughan Mills Outlet Mall
3 - 10019 Keele St.
2 - 160 Cidermill Ave.
3 - 4000 Hwy. 7

Woodbridge
A7 - 4220 Steeles Ave. W

EAST

Ajax
RioCan Durham

Bowmanville
West Bowmanville Shopping Centre
2384 Hwy. 2

Oshawa
Harmony Plaza
Oshawa Centre
27 - 1414 King St. E

Pickering
Pickering Town Centre

Whitby
Brock & Taunton Power Centre

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Phone availability and price may vary. Prices are subject to change without notice. [1] Effective net price after in-store discount at time of activation. Available until August 4, 2009, for clients (new and renewal) who activate on a 3 year term with any non-promotional voice rate plan of $20 or greater with data add-on of $15 or greater. TELUS reserves the right to modify eligible rate plans with this offer at any time without advance notice. Regular price of the BlackBerry Curve on a 3 year term is $99.99. [2] Offer available to new activations only on a 1, 2 or 3 year term until August 4, 2009. Taxes, long distance, additional airtime, roaming, pay-per-use charges, monthly system access fee ($6.95) and monthly enhanced 911 emergency service charge ($0.75/month plus applicable provincial fees) are extra. [3] Device usage beyond the aggregate charge 500 MB/month will be charged at $0.05/MB. Data used while roaming in the U.S. is charged at $3/MB. Any usage incurred through a laptop/computer will be charged at $8/MB. Cannot be combined with any other data plan. [4] On BlackBerry® smartphones (with BlackBerry® Internet Service only). [5] Instant messaging available with Windows Live Messenger on PDA smartphones only and BlackBerry® Messenger on BlackBerry® smartphones only. [6] Video streaming is available on select handsets only and available in Wireless High Speed and digital 1X coverage areas. Video streaming is available to select mobile sites; please visit telusmobility.com for a current list of supported sites. [7] BONUS minutes are not doubled when the client chooses double anytime minutes feature. [8] Your five numbers must be Canadian domestic numbers and must not include your own TELUS mobile phone number, your voice mail retrieval number, toll-free or 900 numbers. Nationwide talk & text refers to local and Canadian long distance calls made to or received from your mobile phone, and subject to additional roaming, and/or international charges. Text messages can only be sent and received from other mobile phones and subject to roaming and international charges. An additional 10¢ charge will apply for each text message or attachment sent outside of Canada and the U.S. Premium messages are not included. You may change the five numbers once per billing cycle by visiting mytelusmobility.com. TELUS, the TELUS logo, the future is friendly and telusmobility.com are trademarks used under licence from TELUS Corporation. BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, SureType®, SurePress™ and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Used under license from Research In Motion Limited. Yahoo is a registered trademark of Yahoo! Canada Co. All other trademarks are property of their respective owners. © 2009 TELUS.

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GL with Sport Package model shown

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GL Sport model shown

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"The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trade marks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp., and used under licence. ♦Last year's starting price is the lease/finance starting price as of December 2008 for a 2009 Elantra L/2009 Accent L 3 Dr/2009 Tucson L/2009 Santa Fe 2.7L GL. Prices for models shown: 2009 Elantra Limited of $20,295/2009 Accent GL Sport of $14,395/2009 Tucson Limited of $27,495/2009 Santa Fe Limited of $32,445. ‡Starting price for model shown: 2009 Elantra Touring GL with Sport Package 5-speed of $21,195. ¥Price is calculated after deducting price adjustment off the lease/finance starting price. Price adjustment of $3,500 available on a 2010 Sonata GL 5-speed. Price for 2010 Sonata Limited model shown (after deducting price adjustment) is $30,499. ♦♦Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495 for 2009 Elantra/$1,495 for 2009 Elantra Touring/$1,495 for 2009 Tucson/$1,695 for 2009 Santa Fe/$1,695 for 2010 Sonata. ◊Offer applies to 2009 Elantra L/2009 Elantra Touring GL/2009 Accent L 3 Dr/2009 Tucson L/2009 Santa Fe 2.7L GL/2010 Sonata GL. Financing for 36 months equals $27.78 per month for each $1,000 borrowed. Financing for 48 months equals $20.83 per month for each $1,000 borrowed. Total obligation of $10,755 (Elantra L) or $17,955 (Elantra Touring GL) or $17,955 (Accent L 3 Dr) or $21,955 (Tucson Limited) or $25,955 (Santa Fe Limited) or $18,999 (Sonata GL) for 36/48 months. Finance offer applies to approved credit on select new 2009 Elantra/2009 Accent/2009 Tucson/2009 Santa Fe/2010 Sonata models delivered from participating dealer stock by January 5, 2009. Offer may be changed or withdrawn at any time without notice. See dealer for complete details. Taxes, insurance, licence fees and all applicable dealer charges are extra. Dealer may sell for less. ΩThe Hyundai Elantra received the lowest number of problems per 100 vehicles among compact cars in the proprietary J.D. Power and Associates 2009 U.S. Initial Quality Study℠. Study based on responses from 60,930 U.S. new-vehicle owners, measuring 245 models and measures opinions after 90 days of ownership. Proprietary study results are based on experiences and perceptions of owners surveyed in February-May 2009. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. *Elantra Touring best-in-class interior room based on Auto Data comparison of 124 vehicles in the compact class (according to AAMC). †Fuel economy comparison based on combined fuel consumption rating for the 2010 Sonata GL auto (8.0ZU/100km) and 2009 EnerCycle combined fuel consumption ratings for the full size vehicle class. Fuel Consumption for 2010 Sonata GL automatic (HWY 6.2L/100km, 46 mpg; CITY 9.5L/100km, 30 mpg) is based on manufacturer testing. Actual fuel consumption may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. ΔSee your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Rebate Program. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.